

Docket No. 03-031-2
Regulatory Analysis and Development
PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71
4700 River Road, Unit 118
Riverdale, MD 20737-1238

Dear Sir or Madam:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on USDA Docket No. 03-031-2 regarding the environmental impact statement you are in the process of developing for genetically engineered crops and organisms.

New evidence shows that contamination of non-genetically engineered (GE) crops with DNA from genetically engineered organisms is becoming an increasingly serious problem in this country. The National Research Council recently presented the USDA with a report addressing the need for biological confinement of GE organisms. Additionally, the Union of Concerned Scientists, an independent nonprofit alliance of more than 100,000 concerned scientists and citizens, just released a report demonstrating the pervasiveness of contamination in US supplies of non-GE corn, soybean and canola seeds.

It would be irresponsible for the USDA to ignore these recent findings and continue to allow outdoor plantings of GE crops, especially those engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals. If open-air plantings of these biopharm crops are allowed, contamination of the food supply is inevitable.

I am very concerned that the USDA is considering allowing unapproved varieties of GE organisms to enter the food supply by exempting from regulation the occurrence of low levels of these varieties. It would be negligent for the USDA to allow varieties unapproved for human consumption to enter the food supply.

I am requesting that the following determinations be included in the Environmental Impact Statement:

- There should be no open-air plantings of biopharm crops, crops engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals.
- Biopharm crops should not be engineered into food crops.
- There should be no exemptions for the occurrence of low levels of unapproved varieties in the food supply.
- There must be regulations in place to ensure that all GE crops are appropriately monitored, with the burden of avoiding contamination, and liability for any such contamination, borne by the farmers and/or patent holders of GE crops.
- Commercial production of GE wheat or rice, or any other new GE crop should not be allowed until a thorough EIS is completed.
- There should be a moratorium on the planting of all GE crops until an EIS is completed, including independent, comprehensive and long-term tests of both health and environmental impacts.

Thank you for taking these concerns into consideration.

Sincerely,

Lee Rossavick
Rossavick Farm
P.O box 312
Potter Valley, Ca 95469



March 5, 2004

Docket No. 03-031-2
Regulatory Analysis and Development
PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71
4700 River Road, Unit 118
Riverdale, MD 20737-1238

RE: Docket No. 03-031-2

Dear Sir or Madam:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on USDA Docket No. 03-031-2 regarding the environmental impact statement you are in the process of developing for genetically engineered crops and organisms.

New evidence shows that contamination of non genetically engineered (GE)crops with DNA from genetically engineered organisms is becoming an increasingly serious problem in this country. The National Research Council recently presented the USDA with a report addressing the need for biological confinement of GE organisms. Additionally, the Union of Concerned Scientists, an independent nonprofit alliance of more than 100,000 concerned citizens and scientists, just released a report demonstrating the pervasiveness of contamination in US supplies of non-GE corn, soybean and canola seeds.

It would be irresponsible for the USDA to ignore these recent findings and continue to allow outdoor plantings of GE crops, especially those engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals. If open-air plantings of these biopharm crops are allowed, contamination of the food supply is inevitable.

I am aware that the USDA is considering allowing unapproved varieties of GE organisms to enter the food supply by exempting from regulation the occurrence of low levels of these varieties. It would be negligent for the USDA to allow varieties unapproved for human consumption to enter the food supply.

I am requesting that the following four determinations be included in the Environmental Impact Statement.

--There should be no open-air plantings of biopharm crops, crops engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals.

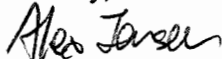
--Biopharm crops should not be engineered into food crops.

--There should be no exemptions for the occurrence of low levels of unapproved varieties in the food supply.

--There must be regulations in place to ensure that all GE crops are appropriately monitored.

Thank you for taking these concerns into consideration. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Alex Jensen, 2703 Forest Ave., Apt. 3, Berkeley, CA 94705

RECEIVED

MAR 09 2004

March 4, 2004

Docket No 03-031-2
Regulatory Analysis & Development
PPD,APHIS, Station 3C71
4700 River Road, Unit 118
Riverdale, MD 20737-1238

RE: Docket No. 03-031-2

Dear Sir or Madam:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on USDA Docket No. 03-031-2 regarding the environmental impact statement you are in the process of developing for genetically engineered crops and organisms.

New evidence shows that contamination of non-genetically engineered (GE) crops with DNA from genetically engineered organisms is becoming an increasingly serious problem in this country. The National Research Council recently presented the USDA with a report addressing the need for biological confinement of GE organisms. Additionally, the Union of Concerned Scientists, an independent nonprofit alliance of more than 100,000 concerned citizens and scientists, just released a report demonstrating the pervasiveness of contamination in US supplies of non-GE corn, soybean and canola seeds.

It would be irresponsible for the USDA to ignore these recent findings and continue to allow outdoor plantings of GE crops, especially those engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals. If open-air plantings of these biopharm crops are allowed, contamination of the food supply is inevitable.

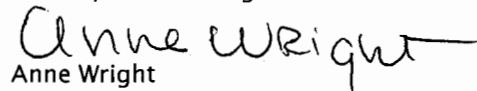
I am aware that the USDA is considering allowing unapproved varieties of GE organisms to enter the food supply by exempting from regulation the occurrence of low levels of these varieties. It would be negligent for the USDA to allow varieties unapproved for human consumption to enter the food supply.

I am requesting that the following four determinations be included in the Environmental Impact Statement.

- There should be no open-air plantings of biopharm crops, crops engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals.
- Biopharm crops should not be engineered into food crops.
- There should be no exemptions for the occurrence of low levels of unapproved varieties in the food supply.

-There must be regulations in place to ensure that all GE crops are appropriately monitored.

Thank you for taking these concerns into consideration,


Anne Wright
429 North Spring St.
Ukiah, CA 95482

RECEIVED

MAR 09 2004



Regulatory Analysis and Development
 PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71
 4700 River Road Unit 118
 Riverdale, MD 20727

March 8, 2004

Dear Sir or Madam:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on USDA Docket No. 03-031-2 regarding the environmental impact statement you are in the process of developing for genetically engineered crops and organisms.

New evidence shows that contamination of non-genetically engineered (GE) crops with DNA from genetically engineered organisms is becoming an increasingly serious problem in this country. The National Research Council recently presented the USDA with a report addressing the need for biological confinement of genetically engineered organisms. Additionally, the Union of Concerned Scientists, an independent nonprofit alliance of more than 100,000 concerned citizens and scientists, just released a report demonstrating the pervasiveness of contamination in US supplies of non-GE corn, soybean and canola seeds.

It would be irresponsible for the USDA to ignore these recent findings and continue to allow outdoor plantings of genetically engineered crops, especially those engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals. If open-air plantings of these "biopharm" crops are allowed, contamination of the food supply is inevitable.

I am aware that the USDA is considering allowing unapproved varieties of genetically engineered organisms to enter the food supply by exempting from regulation the occurrence of low levels of these varieties. It would be negligent for the USDA to allow varieties unapproved for human consumption to enter the food supply.

I am requesting that the following four determinations be included in The Environmental Impact Statement.

- 1) There should be no open-air plantings of "biopharm crops", crops engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals.
- 2) "Biopharm crops" should not be engineered into food crops.
- 3) There should be no exemptions for the occurrence of low levels of unapproved varieties in the food supply.
- 4) There must be regulations in place to ensure that all GE crops are appropriately monitored.

Thank you for taking these concerns into consideration.

Sincerely,

Norman P. Chiodras MS, CFP, RFC
 President

RECEIVED

MAR 15 2004

2001 Midwest Road, Suite 107 ■ Oak Brook, IL 60523 ■ FAX 630.495.9720 ■ PHONE 630.495.9700

1.877.RETIRES
 (738.4737)

INVESTMENTS THROUGH MACK INVESTMENT SECURITIES, INC., ■ 1939 WAUKEGAN ROAD, GLENVIEW, IL 60025
 847.657.6600 ■ MEMBER N.A.S.D., S.I.P.C.

03-031-2

Docket No. 03-031-2
Regulatory Analysis and Development
PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71
4700 River Road, Unit 118
Riverdale, MD 20737-1238

RE: Docket No. 03-031-2

Dear Sir or Madam:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on USDA Docket No. 03-031-2 regarding the environmental impact statement you are in the process of developing for genetically engineered crops and organisms.

New evidence shows that contamination of non-genetically engineered (GE) crops with DNA from genetically engineered organisms is becoming an increasingly serious problem in this country. The National Research Council recently presented the USDA with a report addressing the need for biological confinement of genetically engineered organisms. Additionally, the Union of Concerned Scientists, an independent nonprofit alliance of more than 100,000 concerned citizens and scientists, just released a report demonstrating the pervasiveness of contamination in US supplies of non-GE corn, soybean and canola seeds.

It would be highly irresponsible for the USDA to ignore these recent findings and continue to allow outdoor plantings of genetically engineered crops, especially those engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals. If open-air plantings of these "biopharm" crops are allowed, contamination of the food supply is inevitable.


I am aware that the USDA is considering allowing unapproved varieties of genetically engineered organisms to enter the food supply by exempting from regulation the occurrence of low levels of these varieties. It would be negligent for the USDA to allow varieties unapproved for human consumption to enter the food supply.

I am requesting that the following determinations be included in the Environmental Impact Statement:

- New regulations must include a comprehensive assessment of the economic impacts GE crops have had on family farmers and rural communities, and a socioeconomic assessment for all new GE crop and food varieties.
- There should be no open-air plantings of any GE crops, including "biopharm crops," at University research facilities that grow foundation and public seed stock varieties. If testing is allowed it must be conducted in closed, fully contained experimental facilities with a strict zero-tolerance for contamination attached. Financial responsibility bonds should be made mandatory to cover the cost of liability due to contamination.
- Plant and animal species used for food or feed should not be used to produce pharmaceuticals or industrial chemicals;
- There should be no exemptions for the occurrence of low levels of DNA from unapproved GE varieties in the food supply;
- No additional organisms should be allowed to be genetically engineered into crops unless there is proof that the genetically engineered DNA will not migrate into other living organisms and the environment.

Thank you for taking these concerns into consideration.

Sincerely,


CHRIS KIELCZEWSKI
1945 GREENVILLE TPK.
PT. JERVIS, N.Y. 12771

MAR 24 2004

03-031-2

This comment refers to Docket No. 03-031-2 (four copies- an original and three copies) to:

Docket No. 03-031-2

Regulatory Analysis and Development,

PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71

4700 River Road, Unit 118

Riverdale, MD 20737-1238.

Dear USDA,

These comments are about Docket No. 03-031-2 regarding the Environmental Impact Statement for genetically engineered crops and organisms.

The USDA has not done enough to safeguard the environment from the potential damage that could be caused by genetically engineered crops. Moreover, the USDA is engaged in policies that are benefiting the biotech industry but hurting the organic industry.

I am requesting three specific determinations be included in the Environmental Impact Statement:

- 1) Since corn pollen can travel for miles, genetically engineered corn should no longer be allowed to be grown outdoors. Genetically engineered corn is contaminating organic corn, with the potential of causing long-term damage to the organic corn industry.
- 2) Since it is inevitable that insects will become resistant to the spray form of Bt if BT is overused in genetically engineered crops, no more genetically engineered Bt crops of any variety should be allowed to be grown outdoors.
- 3) Since horizontal gene transfer and alternative splicing have shown that genes like to move around much more than was previously expected, no crops containing pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals should be allowed to be grown outdoors. Crops genetically engineered to contain pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals should be restricted to greenhouses or other controlled indoor environments. In addition, crops such as genetically engineered wheat or genetically engineered rice should not be allowed to grow outdoors.


While I am pleased that the USDA is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement, I am disappointed that it was not done many years ago. The fact that the Environmental Impact Statement is being prepared now is an indication of the lack of previous due diligence by the USDA in regulating these potentially dangerous plants.

The organic agriculture industry must be protected from contamination and damage from genetically engineered crops. By placing a ban on the outdoor growing of all biotech corn, soy, wheat and rice, and all crops genetically engineered to contain the Bt toxin, the USDA will show it is serious about properly regulating these controversial crops.

Any ruling by the USDA that allows crops genetically engineered to contain pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals to be grown outdoors would be reckless and irresponsible.

Further, more research must be done in all cases before allowing new genetically engineered plants and animals to be rushed to markets. The burden of proof should be on the biotech companies to prove each and every genetically engineered product is safe and labeled before being introduced into the environment and the marketplace.

Sincerely, Mary McClung~184B HCR1~Hana, HI 96713~(808)-248-4021~ ongoodland@earthlink.net



3/18/04

03-031-2

P.O. Box 163
Mendocino, CA 95460
March 4, 2004

Docket No. 03-031-2
Regulatory Analysis and Development
P.P.D., A.P.H.I.S. Station 3C71
4700 River Road, Unit 118
Riverdale, Md. 20737-1238

RE: Docket No. 03-031-2

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am requesting that the following four determinations be included in the Environmental Impact Statement,

- There should be no open air plantings of bio-pharm crops, crops engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals.
- Biopharm crops should not be engineered into food crops.
- There should be no exemptions for the occurrence of low levels of unapproved varieties in the food supply.
- There must be regulations in place to ensure that all GE crops are appropriately monitored.

Thankyou for taking these concerns into consideration.

Sincerely,
Agnes Wadley

RECEIVED
MAR 09 2004

Docket No. 03-031-2
Regulatory Analysis and Development
PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71
4700 River Road, Unit 118
Riverdale, MD 20737-1238

RE: Docket No. 03-031-2

Dear Sir or Madam:

I understand that the USDA is considering allowing unapproved varieties of GE organisms to enter the food supply by exempting from regulation the occurrence of low level of these varieties. It would be negligent for the USDA to allow varieties unapproved for human consumption to enter the food supply. In fact, I think it is foolish to let any GMO's enter the food supply. There is no containing GMOs grown in the out of doors, and there is no coexistence as the GMO genes are the dominant ones.

I would like to see the following included in the Environmental Impact Statement:

1. No open air plantings of biopharm crops, i.e. Crops engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals
2. Under no circumstances should biopharm crops be engineered into food crops.
3. There should be a policy of zero tolerance for low levels of unapproved varieties of GMOs in the food supply.
4. There must be regulations in place to insure appropriate monitoring of all GE crops.

Thank you for listening to a concerned citizen.

Sincerely,


Annette Durham

PO Box 637

Upper Lake, CA 95485

RECEIVED

MAR 22 2004

Regulatory Analysis and Development
PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71
4700 River Road, Unit 118
Riverdale, MD 20737-1238

RE: Docket No. 03-031-2

Dear Sir or Madam:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on USDA Docket No. 03-031-2 regarding the environmental impact statement you are in the process of developing for genetically engineered crops and organisms.

New evidence shows that contamination of non-genetically engineered (GE) crops with DNA from genetically engineered organisms is becoming an increasingly serious problem in this country. The National Research Council recently presented the USDA with a report addressing the need for biological confinement of genetically engineered organisms. Additionally, the Union of Concerned Scientists, an independent nonprofit alliance of more than 100,000 concerned citizens and scientists, just released a report demonstrating the pervasiveness of contamination in US supplies of non-GE corn, soybean and canola seeds.

It would be irresponsible for the USDA to ignore these recent findings and continue to allow outdoor plantings of genetically engineered crops, especially those engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals. If open-air plantings of these "biopharm" crops are allowed, contamination of the food supply is inevitable.

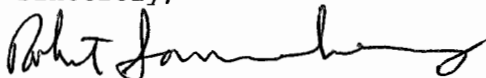
I am aware that the USDA is considering allowing unapproved varieties of genetically engineered organisms to enter the food supply by exempting from regulation the occurrence of low levels of these varieties. It would be negligent for the USDA to allow varieties unapproved for human consumption to enter the food supply.

I am requesting that the following four determinations be included in the Environmental Impact Statement.

- 1) There should be no open-air plantings of "biopharm crops", crops engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals.
- 2) "Biopharm crops" should not be engineered into food crops.
- 3) There should be no exemptions for the occurrence of low levels of unapproved varieties in the food supply.
- 4) There must be regulations in place to ensure that all GE crops are appropriately monitored.

Thank you for taking these concerns into consideration.

Sincerely,



Robert Sonnenberg
Education and Outreach Coordinator
Whole Foods Cooperative
1341 West 26th St.
Erie, PA 16508

03-031-2

Docket No. 03-031-2
Regulatory Analysis and Development
PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71
4700 River Road, Unit 118
Riverdale, MD 20737-1238

RE: Docket No. 03-031-2

March 3, 2004

Dear Sir or Madam:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on USDA Docket No. 03-031-2 regarding the environmental impact statement you are in the process of developing for genetically engineered crops and organisms.

New evidence shows that contamination of non-genetically engineered (GE) crops with DNA from genetically engineered organisms is becoming an increasingly serious problem in this country. The National Research Council recently presented the USDA with a report addressing the need for biological confinement of genetically engineered organisms. Additionally, the Union of Concerned Scientists, an independent nonprofit alliance of more than 100,000 concerned citizens and scientists, just released a report demonstrating the pervasiveness of contamination in US supplies of non-GE corn, soybean and canola seeds.

It would be irresponsible for the USDA to ignore these recent findings and continue to allow outdoor plantings of genetically engineered crops, especially those engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals. If open-air plantings of these "biopharm" crops are allowed, contamination of the food supply is inevitable.

I am aware that the USDA is considering allowing unapproved varieties of genetically engineered organisms to enter the food supply by exempting from regulation the occurrence of low levels of these varieties. It would be negligent for the USDA to allow varieties unapproved for human consumption to enter the food supply.

I am requesting that the following four determinations be included in the Environmental Impact Statement.

- 1) There should be no open-air plantings of "biopharm crops", crops engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals.
- 2) "Biopharm crops" should not be engineered into food crops.
- 3) There should be no exemptions for the occurrence of low levels of unapproved varieties in the food supply.
- 4) There must be regulations in place to ensure that all GE crops are appropriately monitored.

Thank you for taking these concerns into consideration.

Sincerely,

Ana Maria Rebelo

MAR - 4 2004

Docket No. 03-031-2
Regulatory Analysis and Development
PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71
4700 River Road, Unit 118
Riverdale, MD 20737-1238

March 1, 2004

Dear Sir or Madam:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on USDA Docket No. 03-031-2 regarding the environmental impact statement you are in the process of developing for genetically engineered crops and organisms.

New evidence shows that contamination of non-genetically engineered crops with DNA from genetically engineered organisms is becoming an increasingly serious problem in this country. The National Research Council recently presented the USDA with a report addressing the need for biological confinement of genetically engineered organisms. Additionally, the Union of Concerned Scientists just released a report demonstrating the pervasiveness of contamination in US supplies of non-genetically engineered corn, soybean, and canola seeds.

It would be irresponsible for the USDA to ignore these recent findings and continue to allow poorly regulated outdoor plantings of genetically engineered crops, especially those engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals. If open-air plantings of these "biopharm" crops are allowed, contamination of the food supply is inevitable.

I am aware that the USDA is considering allowing unapproved varieties of genetically engineered organisms to enter the food supply by exempting from regulation the occurrence of low levels of these varieties. It would be negligent for the USDA to allow varieties unapproved for human consumption to enter the food supply.

I am requesting that the following four determinations be included in the Environmental Impact Statement.

- 1) There should be no exemptions for the occurrence of low levels of unapproved varieties in the food supply
- 2) There should be no open-air plantings of "biopharm crops," crops engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals, and "biopharm crops" should not be engineered into food crops
- 3) There must be regulations in place to ensure that all genetically engineered crops are appropriately monitored at all stages of research

Thank you for taking these concerns into consideration.

Sincerely,



Jodi Segal
609 W. Carrillo St.
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

MAR - 4 2004

Docket No. 03-031-2
Regulatory Analysis and Development
PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71
4700 River Road, Unit 118
Riverdale, MD 20737-1238

RE: Docket No. 03-031-2

Dear Sir or Madam:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on USDA Docket No. 03-031-2 regarding the environmental impact statement you are in the process of developing for genetically engineered crops and organisms.

New evidence shows that contamination of non-genetically engineered (GE) crops with DNA from genetically engineered organisms is becoming an increasingly serious problem in this country. The National Research Council recently presented the USDA with a report addressing the need for biological confinement of genetically engineered organisms. Additionally, the Union of Concerned Scientists, an independent nonprofit alliance of more than 100,000 concerned citizens and scientists, just released a report demonstrating the pervasiveness of contamination in US supplies of non-GE corn, soybean and canola seeds.

It would be irresponsible for the USDA to ignore these recent findings and continue to allow outdoor plantings of genetically engineered crops, especially those engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals. If open-air plantings of these "biopharm" crops are allowed, contamination of the food supply is inevitable.

I am aware that the USDA is considering allowing unapproved varieties of genetically engineered organisms to enter the food supply by exempting from regulation the occurrence of low levels of these varieties. It would be negligent for the USDA to allow varieties unapproved for human consumption to enter the food supply.

I am requesting that the following four determinations be included in the Environmental Impact Statement.

- 1) There should be no open-air plantings of "biopharm crops", crops engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals.
- 2) "Biopharm crops" should not be engineered into food crops.
- 3) There should be no exemptions for the occurrence of low levels of unapproved varieties in the food supply.
- 4) There must be regulations in place to ensure that all GE crops are appropriately monitored.

Thank you for taking these concerns into consideration.

Sincerely,

Christina Smith
700 Washington Street, #910
Denver, CO 80203

MAR - 4 2004

02-29-04

Docket No. 03-031-2

Regulatory Analysis and Development

PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71

4700 River Road, Unit 118

Riverdale, MD 20737-1238

RE: Docket No. 03-031-2

Dear Sir or Madam:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on USDA Docket No. 03-031-2 regarding the environmental impact statement you are in the process of developing for genetically engineered crops and organisms.

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It would be irresponsible for the USDA to ignore these recent findings and continue to allow outdoor plantings of genetically engineered crops, especially those engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals. If open-air plantings of these "biopharm" crops are allowed, contamination of the food supply is inevitable.

I am aware that the USDA is considering allowing unapproved varieties of genetically engineered organisms to enter the food supply by exempting from regulation the occurrence of low levels of these varieties. It would be negligent for the USDA to allow varieties unapproved for human consumption to enter the food supply.

I am requesting that the following four determinations be included in the Environmental Impact Statement.

- 1) There should be no open-air plantings of "biopharm crops", crops engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals.
- 2) "Biopharm crops" should not be engineered into food crops.
- 3) There should be no exemptions for the occurrence of low levels of unapproved varieties in the food supply.
- 4) There must be regulations in place to ensure that all GE crops are appropriately monitored.

Thank you for taking these concerns into consideration.

Sincerely,

Marian Callahan M.S., L.Ac 777 Meadow Road Smithtown, Ny 11787

Marian Callahan M.S., L.Ac

MAR - 4 2004

03-031-2

Docket No. 03-031-2
Regulatory Analysis and Development,
PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71
4700 River Road, Unit 118
Riverdale, MD 20737-1238.

March 21, 04

Dear USDA,

These comments are about Docket No. 03-031-2 regarding the Environmental Impact Statement for genetically engineered crops and organisms.

The USDA has not done enough to safeguard the environment from the potential damage that could be caused by genetically engineered crops. Moreover, the USDA is engaged in policies that are benefiting the biotech industry but hurting the organic industry.

Evidence shows that organic corn is becoming contaminated by the cross-pollination from genetically engineered corn. Further, by allowing the growth of so many acres of crops that contain the Bt (bacillus thuringiensis) toxin, insects are beginning to build up resistance to the Bt toxin due to overexposure. As a result, the effectiveness of Bt, when used as a spray in organic agriculture, is undermined.

In addition, recent research shows that a lot of "horizontal gene transfer" is taking place in ways that many genetic researchers earlier thought was impossible. And biologists have been shocked to discover plant species with differing numbers of chromosomes are hybridizing. Gene transfer has been shown to occur in open fields of canola, resulting in the creation of "superweeds" that have become herbicide-resistant.

Far more is still unknown about the science of genetic engineering than is known. For example, just a few years ago scientists decided to map the human genome and determine the genes that make up a human. They expected to find more than 100,000 genes. But scientists were shocked to discover that humans are made out of only about 30,000 genes. Scientists determined that a lot of "alternative splicing" is taking place.

With the recent discoveries of alternative splicing and horizontal gene transfer in human and plant genetics, it would be irresponsible for the USDA to allow ANY crops that contain pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals to be grown outdoors. Even if the drugs and chemicals are genetically engineered into non-food crops, it is still impossible to assure that the genes will not eventually get into the food supply.

I am requesting three specific determinations be included in the Environmental Impact Statement:

- 1) Since corn pollen can travel for miles, genetically engineered corn should no longer be allowed to be grown outdoors. Genetically engineered corn is contaminating organic corn, with the potential of causing long-term damage to the organic corn industry.
- 2) Since it is inevitable that insects will become resistant to the spray form of Bt if BT is overused in genetically engineered crops, no more genetically engineered Bt crops of any variety should be allowed to be grown outdoors.
- 3) Since horizontal gene transfer and alternative splicing have shown that genes like to move around much more than was previously expected, no crops containing pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals should be allowed to be grown outdoors. Crops genetically engineered to contain pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals should be restricted to greenhouses or other controlled indoor environments. In addition, crops such as genetically engineered wheat or genetically engineered rice should not be allowed to grow outdoors.

The organic agriculture industry must be protected from contamination and damage from genetically engineered crops. By placing a ban on the outdoor growing of all biotech corn, soy, wheat and rice, and all crops genetically engineered to contain the Bt toxin, the USDA will show it is serious about properly regulating these controversial crops.

Any ruling by the USDA that allows crops genetically engineered to contain pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals to be grown outdoors would be reckless and irresponsible.

Sincerely,

Nora Pearl
540 Kaiapa Pl
Hale, HI 96708



Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati

03-031-2

March 25, 2004

Regulatory Analysis and Development
PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71
4700 River Road, Unit 118
Riverdale, MD 20737-1238

RE: Docket No. 03-031-2

Dear Sir or Madam:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on USDA Docket No. 03-031-2 regarding the environmental impact statement you are in the process of developing for genetically engineered crops and organisms.

The National Research Council recently presented the USDA with a report addressing the need for biological confinement of genetically engineered organisms. Additionally, the Union of Concerned Scientists, an independent nonprofit alliance of more than 100,000 concerned citizens and scientists, just released a report demonstrating the pervasiveness of contamination in US supplies of non-GE corn, soybean and canola seeds.

We are aware that the USDA is considering allowing unapproved varieties of genetically engineered organisms to enter the food supply by exempting from regulation the occurrence of low levels of these varieties. It would be negligent for the USDA to allow varieties unapproved for human consumption to enter the food supply.

We are requesting that the following four determinations be included in the Environmental Impact Statement.

- 1) There should be no open-air plantings of biopharm crops, crops engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals.
- 2) Biopharm crops should not be permitted to be engineered into food crops.
- 3) There should be no exemptions for the occurrence of low levels of unapproved varieties in the food supply.
- 4) There must be regulations in place to ensure that ALL GE crops are appropriately monitored.

Thank you for taking these concerns into consideration.

Sincerely,

Ruth Kuhn, SC

MAR 29 2004

Dear Sir or Madam:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on USDA Docket No. 03-031-2 regarding the environmental impact statement you are in the process of developing for genetically engineered crops and organisms.

New evidence shows that contamination of non-genetically engineered (GE) crops with DNA from genetically engineered organisms is becoming an increasingly serious problem in this country. The National Research Council recently presented the USDA with a report addressing the need for biological confinement of GE organisms. Additionally, the Union of Concerned Scientists, an independent nonprofit alliance of more than 100,000 concerned citizens and scientists, just released a report demonstrating the pervasiveness of contamination in US supplies of non-GE corn, soybean and canola seeds.

It would be irresponsible for the USDA to ignore these recent findings and continue to allow outdoor plantings of GE crops, especially those engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals. If open-air plantings of these biopharm crops are allowed, contamination of the food supply is inevitable.

I am aware that the USDA is considering allowing unapproved varieties of GE organisms to enter the food supply by exempting from regulation the occurrence of low levels of these varieties. It would be negligent for the USDA to allow varieties unapproved for human consumption to enter the food supply.

I am requesting that the following four determinations be included in the Environmental Impact Statement.

--There should be no open-air plantings of biopharm crops, crops engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals.

--Biopharm crops should not be engineered into food crops.

--There should be no exemptions for the occurrence of low levels of unapproved varieties in the food supply.

--There must be regulations in place to ensure that all GE crops are appropriately monitored.

Thank you for taking these concerns into consideration.

Sincerely,

Agnes Woolsey

P.O. Box 163

Mendocino, CA 95460

RECEIVED

MAR 29 2004

Mar. 29 2004

03-031-2



Adoratrices de la Sangre de Cristo
그리스도의 성혈흡송수녀회

ASC Investment Group

1400 South Sheridan

Wichita, Kansas 67213

316-943-1203 FAX 316-943-1427

www.adorers.org

March 29, 2004

Regulatory Analysis and Development
PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71
4700 River Road, Unit 118
Riverdale, MD 20737-1238

RE: Docket No. 03-031-2

Dear Sir or Madam:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on USDA Docket No. 03-031-2 regarding the environmental impact statement you are in the process of developing for genetically engineered crops and organisms.

The National Research Council recently presented the USDA with a report addressing the need for biological confinement of genetically engineered organisms. Additionally, the Union of Concerned Scientists, an independent nonprofit alliance of more than 100,000 concerned citizens and scientists, just released a report demonstrating the pervasiveness of contamination in US supplies of non-GE corn, soybean and canola seeds.

We are aware that the USDA is considering allowing unapproved varieties of genetically engineered organisms to enter the food supply by exempting from regulation the occurrence of low levels of these varieties. It would be negligent for the USDA to allow varieties unapproved for human consumption to enter the food supply.

We are requesting that the following four determinations be included in the Environmental Impact Statement.

- 1) There should be no open-air plantings of biopharm crops, crops engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals.
- 2) Biopharm crops should not be permitted to be engineered into food crops.
- 3) There should be no exemptions for the occurrence of low levels of unapproved varieties in the food supply.
- 4) There must be regulations in place to ensure that ALL GE crops are appropriately monitored.

Thank you for taking these concerns into consideration.

Sincerely,

Vicki Bergkamp ASC

Vicki Bergkamp ASC
ASC Investment Group

APR -2 2004

Docket No. 03-03 1-2
Regulatory Analysis and Development
PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71
4700 River Road, Unit 118
Riverdale, MD 207374238

RE: Docket No.03-031-2 Dear Sir or Madam:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on USDA Docket No. 03-03 1-2 regarding the environmental impact statement you are in the process of developing for genetically engineered crops and organisms.

New evidence shows that contamination of non-genetically engineered (GE) crops with DNA from genetically engineered organisms is becoming an increasingly serious problem in this country. The National Research Council recently presented the USDA with a report addressing the need for biological confinement of GE organisms. Additionally, the Union of Concerned Scientists, an independent nonprofit alliance of more than 100000 concerned citizens and scientists, just released a report demonstrating the pervasiveness of contamination in US supplies of non-GE corn, soybean and canola seeds.

It would be irresponsible for the USDA to ignore these recent findings and continue to allow outdoor plantings of GE crops, especially those engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals. If open-air plantings of these biopharm crops are allowed, contamination of the food supply is inevitable.

I am aware that the USDA is considering allowing unapproved varieties of GE organisms to enter the food supply by exempting from regulation the occurrence of low levels of these varieties. It would be negligent for the USDA to allow varieties unapproved for human consumption to enter the food supply.

I am requesting that the following four determinations be included in the Environmental Impact Statement.

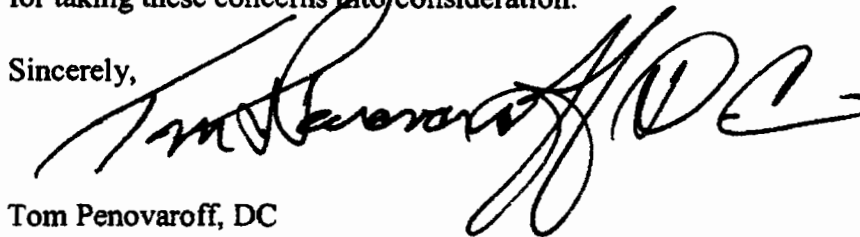
--There should be no open-air plantings of biopharm crops, crops engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals.

—Biopharm crops should not be engineered into food crops.

--There should be no exemptions for the occurrence of low levels of unapproved varieties in the food supply.

--There must be regulations in place to ensure that all GE crops are appropriately monitored. Thank you for taking these concerns into consideration.

Sincerely,



Tom Penovaroff, DC
#11 Lake Court Dr.
Fulsom, CA

MAR 23 2004

Lori L. Belling
2005 Meadowview Drive
Crestwood, KY 40014-9261

March 17, 2004

Docket No. 03-031-2
Regulatory Analysis and Development,
PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71
4700 River Road, Unit 118
Riverdale, MD 20737-1238

RE: Docket No. 03-031-2

Dear Sir or Madam:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on USDA Docket No. 03-031-2 regarding the environmental impact statement you are in the process of developing for genetically engineered crops and organisms.

New evidence shows that contamination of non-genetically engineered (GE) crops with DNA from genetically engineered organisms is becoming an increasingly serious problem in this country. The National Research Council recently presented the USDA with a report addressing the need for biological confinement of genetically engineered organisms. Additionally, the Union of Concerned Scientists, an independent nonprofit alliance of more than 100,000 concerned citizens and scientists, just released a report demonstrating the pervasiveness of contamination in US supplies of non-GE corn, soybean and canola seeds.

It would be irresponsible for the USDA to ignore these recent findings and continue to allow outdoor plantings of genetically engineered crops, especially those engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals. If open-air plantings of these "biopharm" crops are allowed, contamination of the food supply is inevitable.

I am aware that the USDA is considering allowing unapproved varieties of genetically engineered organisms to enter the food supply by exempting from regulation the occurrence of low levels of these varieties. It would be negligent for the USDA to allow varieties unapproved for human consumption to enter the food supply.

I am requesting that the following four determinations be included in the Environmental Impact Statement:

- 1) There should be no open-air plantings of "biopharm crops", crops engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals.
- 2) "Biopharm crops" should not be engineered into food crops.
- 3) There should be no exemptions for the occurrence of low levels of unapproved varieties in the food supply.
- 4) There must be regulations in place to ensure that all GE crops are appropriately monitored.

Thank you for taking these concerns into consideration.

Sincerely,

Lori L. Belling
Lori L. Belling

RECEIVED

MAR 22 2004

March 16, 2004

Regulatory Analysis and Development
PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71
4700 River Road, Unit 118
Riverdale, MD 20737-1238

RE: Docket No. 03-031-2

Dear Sir or Madam:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on USDA Docket No. 03-031-2 regarding the environmental impact statement you are in the process of developing for genetically engineered crops and organisms.

The citizens of Mendocino County in California have spoken out clearly regarding our position relative to GMO by passing grass-roots legislation which bans GMO cultivation in this county.

New evidence shows that contamination of non-genetically engineered (GE) crops with DNA from genetically engineered organisms is becoming an increasingly serious problem in this country. The National Research Council recently presented the USDA with a report addressing the need for biological confinement of GE organisms. Additionally, the Union of Concerned Scientists, an independent nonprofit alliance of more than 100,000 concerned citizens and scientists, just released a report demonstrating the pervasiveness of contamination in US supplies of non-GE corn, soybean and canola seeds.

It would be irresponsible for the USDA to ignore these recent findings and continue to allow outdoor plantings of GE crops, especially those engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals. If open-air plantings of these biopharm crops are allowed, contamination of the food supply is inevitable.

I am aware that the USDA is considering allowing unapproved varieties of GE organisms to enter the food supply by exempting from regulation the occurrence of low levels of these varieties. It would be negligent for the USDA to allow varieties unapproved for human consumption to enter the food supply.

I am requesting that the following four determinations be included in the Environmental Impact Statement.

--There should be no open-air plantings of biopharm crops, crops engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals.

--Biopharm crops should not be engineered into food crops.

--There should be no exemptions for the occurrence of low levels of unapproved varieties in the food supply.

--There must be regulations in place to ensure that all GE crops are appropriately monitored.

Thank you for taking these concerns into consideration.

Sincerely,


Kay Graves

31201 Airport Road
Fort Bragg, CA 95437

RECEIVED

MAR 19 2004

Docket No. 03-031-2
Regulatory Analysis and Development
PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71
4700 River Road, Unit 118
Riverdale, MD 20737-1238

RE: Docket No. 03-031-2

Dear Sir or Madam:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on USDA Docket No. 03-031-2 regarding the environmental impact statement you are in the process of developing for genetically engineered crops and organisms.

New evidence shows that contamination of non-genetically engineered (GE) crops with DNA from genetically engineered organisms is becoming an increasingly serious problem in this country. The National Research Council recently presented the USDA with a report addressing the need for biological confinement of genetically engineered organisms. Additionally, the Union of Concerned Scientists, an independent nonprofit alliance of more than 100,000 concerned citizens and scientists, just released a report demonstrating the pervasiveness of contamination in US supplies of non-GE corn, soybean and canola seeds.

It would be irresponsible for the USDA to ignore these recent findings and continue to allow outdoor plantings of genetically engineered crops, especially those engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals. If open-air plantings of these =93biopharm=94 crops are allowed, contamination of the food supply is inevitable.

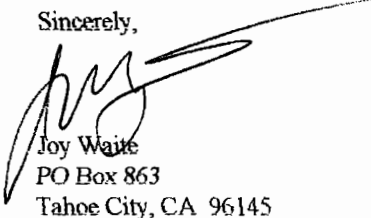
I am aware that the USDA is considering allowing unapproved varieties of genetically engineered organisms to enter the food supply by exempting from regulation the occurrence of low levels of these varieties. It would be negligent for the USDA to allow varieties unapproved for human consumption to enter the food supply.

I am requesting that the following four determinations be included in the Environmental Impact Statement.

- 1) There should be no open-air plantings of =93biopharm crops=94, crops engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals.
- 2) =93Biopharm crops=94 should not be engineered into food crops.
- 3) There should be no exemptions for the occurrence of low levels of unapproved varieties in the food supply.
- 4) There must be regulations in place to ensure that all GE crops are appropriately monitored.

Thank you for taking these concerns into consideration.

Sincerely,



Joy Waite
PO Box 863
Tahoe City, CA 96145

RECEIVED
MAR 18 2004

03-031-2

Docket No. 03-031-2

Regulatory Analysis and Development,

PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71

4700 River Road, Unit 118

Riverdale, MD 20737-1238

RE: Docket No. 03-031-2

Dear Sir or Madam:

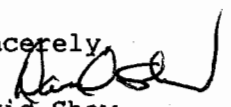
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on USDA Docket No. 03-031-2.

Evidence shows that contamination of non-genetically engineered (GE) crops with DNA from genetically engineered organisms is becoming an increasingly serious problem in this country. The National Research Council recently presented the USDA with a report addressing the need for strict biological confinement of genetically engineered organisms. Additionally, the Union of Concerned Scientists, an independent nonprofit alliance of more than 100,000 concerned citizens and scientists, just released a report demonstrating the pervasiveness of contamination in US supplies of non-GE corn, soybean and canola seeds. For the USDA to ignore these recent findings and continue to allow outdoor plantings of genetically engineered crops, would be irresponsible. Particularly those engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals. If open-air planting of these "biopharm" crops is allowed, contamination of the food supply is inevitable.

I am aware that the USDA is considering allowing unapproved varieties of genetically engineered organisms to enter the food supply by exempting from regulation the occurrence of low levels of these varieties. It would be negligent for the USDA to allow varieties unapproved for human consumption to enter the food supply. I am requesting that the following determinations be included in the Environmental Impact Statement. There should be no open-air plantings of "biopharm crops", crops engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals. "Biopharm crops" should not be engineered into food crops. There should be no exemptions for the occurrence of low levels of unapproved varieties in the food supply. There must be regulations in place to ensure that all GE crops are appropriately monitored.

Thank you for taking my concerns into consideration.

Sincerely,


David Shaw

Shaw Farms 8000 Harriet Tubman Lane Columbia MD 21044

RECEIVED

MAR 22 2004

March 23, 2004

Docket No. 03-031-2
Regulatory Analysis and Development
PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71
4700 River Road, Unit 118
Riverdale, MD 20737-1238

RE: Docket No. 03-031-2

Dear Sir or Madam:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on USDA Docket No. 03-031-2 regarding the environmental impact statement you are in the process of developing for genetically engineered crops and organisms.

New evidence shows that contamination of non-genetically engineered (GE) crops with DNA from genetically engineered organisms is becoming an increasingly serious problem in this country. The National Research Council recently presented the USDA with a report addressing the need for biological confinement of genetically engineered organisms. Additionally, the Union of Concerned Scientists, an independent nonprofit alliance of more than 100,000 concerned citizens and scientists, just released a report demonstrating the pervasiveness of contamination in US supplies of non-GE corn, soybean and canola seeds.

It would be irresponsible for the USDA to ignore these recent findings and continue to allow outdoor plantings of genetically engineered crops, especially those engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals. If open-air plantings of these "biopharm" crops are allowed, contamination of the food supply is inevitable.

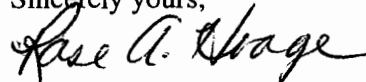
I am aware that the USDA is considering allowing unapproved varieties of genetically engineered organisms to enter the food supply by exempting from regulation the occurrence of low levels of these varieties. It would be negligent for the USDA to allow varieties unapproved for human consumption to enter the food supply.

I am requesting that the following four determinations be included in the Environmental Impact Statement.

- 1) There should be no open-air plantings of "biopharm crops", crops engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals.
- 2) "Biopharm crops" should not be engineered into food crops.
- 3) There should be no exemptions for the occurrence of low levels of unapproved varieties in the food supply.
- 4) There must be regulations in place to ensure that all GE crops are appropriately monitored.

As a consumer, and daughter and sister of farmers, I am very concerned about our food supply in that foods may be contaminated and super weeds will abound. Thank you for taking these concerns into consideration.

Sincerely yours,



Rose A. Hoage
3316 Edgewood Road
Kensington, MD 20895

MAR 24 2004

Oregon, Missouri
March 19, 2004

Docket No. 03-031-2
Regulatory Analysis and Development
PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71
4700 River Road, Unit 118
Riverdale, MD 20737-1238

RE: Docket No. 03-031-2

Dear Sir or Madam:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on USDA Docket No. 03-031-2 regarding the environmental impact statement you are in the process of developing for genetically engineered crops and organisms.

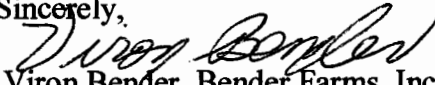
As an organic farmer and an organic food consumer, I am very concerned that the USDA is considering allowing unapproved varieties of genetically engineered organisms to enter the food supply by exempting from regulation the occurrence of low levels of these varieties.

It was my impression that the USDA became involved with organic production to assure the organic products would remain pure and safe for human consumption. So for the USDA to consider involving genetically engineered organisms to become in any way involved in organic production of food and animals – and for the genetically engineered organisms being involved in conventional farming as well - is negligent, irresponsible and unthinkable!!

I am requesting the following determinations be included in the Environmental Impact Statement.

- (1) There should be no open-air plantings of "biopharm crops", crops engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals.
- (2) "Bioharm crops" should not be engineered into food crops.
- (3) There should be no exemptions for the occurrence of low levels of unapproved varieties in the food supply.
- (4) There must be regulations in place to ensure that all GE crops are appropriately monitored.

Thank you for taking these concerns into consideration.

Sincerely,

Viron Bender, Bender Farms, Inc.
31439 Hwy. 120
Oregon, MO 64473

MAR 23 2004

Mark Wahl
416 4th Street
Langley, WA 98260
March 17, 2004

Docket No. 03-031-2
Regulatory Analysis and Development
PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71
4700 River Road, Unit 118
Riverdale, MD 20737-1238
RE: Docket No. 03-031-2

Dear Sir or Madam:

I wish to comment on USDA Docket No. 03-031-2 about the environmental impact statement you are in the process of developing for genetically engineered crops and organisms.

GMA crops are longer just a minor problem. New evidence shows that contamination of non-genetically engineered (GE) crops with DNA from genetically engineered organisms is becoming an increasingly serious problem in this country. Cases in point: The National Research Council recently presented the USDA with a report addressing the need for biological confinement of genetically engineered organisms. The Union of Concerned Scientists, an independent nonprofit alliance of more than 100,000 concerned citizens and scientists, just released a report demonstrating the pervasiveness of contamination in US supplies of non-GE corn, soybean and canola seeds.

Ignoring these recent findings is to our peril continuing to allow outdoor plantings of genetically engineered crops is irresponsible. Those engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals are worst of all. If open-air plantings of these "biopharm" crops are allowed, contamination of the food supply is inevitable.

What is worse, they are considering allowing unapproved varieties of genetically engineered organisms to enter the food supply—exempting from regulation the occurrence of low levels of these varieties. No other industry so concerned with human life would dare to neglect such factors. I want the following four included in the Environmental Impact Statement.

- 1) No open-air plantings of "biopharm crops", crops engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals.
- 2) No engineering of "Biopharm crops" into food crops.
- 3) No exemptions for the occurrence of low levels of unapproved varieties in the food supply.
- 4) All GE crops must be appropriately monitored.

Thank you for entering these concerns into the record.

Sincerely,



RECEIVED

MAR 22 2004

03-031-2

Docket No. 03-031-2
Regulatory Analysis and Development
PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71
4700 River Road, Unit 118
Riverdale, MD 20737-1238

RE: Docket No. 03-031-2

Dear Sir or Madam:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on USDA Docket No. 03-031-2 regarding the environmental impact statement you are in the process of developing for genetically engineered crops and organisms.

New evidence shows that contamination of non-genetically engineered (GE) crops with DNA from genetically engineered organisms is becoming an increasingly serious problem in this country. The National Research Council recently presented the USDA with a report addressing the need for biological confinement of GE organisms. Additionally, the Union of Concerned Scientists, an independent nonprofit alliance of more than 100,000 concerned citizens and scientists, just released a report demonstrating the pervasiveness of contamination in US supplies of non-GE corn, soybean and canola seeds.

It would be irresponsible for the USDA to ignore these recent findings and continue to allow outdoor plantings of GE crops, especially those engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals. If open-air plantings of these biopharm crops are allowed, contamination of the food supply is inevitable.

I am aware that the USDA is considering allowing unapproved varieties of GE organisms to enter the food supply by exempting from regulation the occurrence of low levels of these varieties. It would be negligent for the USDA to allow varieties unapproved for human consumption to enter the food supply.

I am requesting that the following four determinations be included in the Environmental Impact Statement.

--There should be no open-air plantings of biopharm crops, crops engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals.

--Biopharm crops should not be engineered into food crops.

--There should be no exemptions for the occurrence of low levels of unapproved varieties in the food supply.

--There must be regulations in place to ensure that all GE crops are appropriately monitored.

Thank you for taking these concerns into consideration.

Sincerely,



RECEIVED

MAR 22 2004

Docket No. 03-03 1-2
Regulatory Analysis and Development
PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71
4700 River Road, Unit 118
Riverdale, MD 207374238

RE: Docket No.03-031-2 Dear Sir or Madam:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on USDA Docket No. 03-03 1-2 regarding the environmental impact statement you are in the process of developing for genetically engineered crops and organisms.

New evidence shows that contamination of non-genetically engineered (GE) crops with DNA from genetically engineered organisms is becoming an increasingly serious problem in this country. The National Research Council recently presented the USDA with a report addressing the need for biological confinement of GE organisms. Additionally, the Union of Concerned Scientists, an independent nonprofit alliance of more than 100000 concerned citizens and scientists, just released a report demonstrating the pervasiveness of contamination in US supplies of non-GE corn, soybean and canola seeds.

It would be irresponsible for the USDA to ignore these recent findings and continue to allow outdoor plantings of GE crops, especially those engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals. If open-air plantings of these biopharm crops are allowed, contamination of the food supply is inevitable.

I am aware that the USDA is considering allowing unapproved varieties of GE organisms to enter the food supply by exempting from regulation the occurrence of low levels of these varieties. It would be negligent for the USDA to allow varieties unapproved for human consumption to enter the food supply.

I am requesting that the following four determinations be included in the Environmental Impact Statement.

--There should be no open-air plantings of biopharm crops, crops engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals.

—Biopharm crops should not be engineered into food crops.

--There should be no exemptions for the occurrence of low levels of unapproved varieties in the food supply.

--There must be regulations in place to ensure that all GE crops are appropriately monitored. Thank you for taking these concerns into consideration.

Sincerely,



Colleen McNutt
PO Box 474
Willits, CA 95490

MAR 23 2004

Docket No. 03-031-2
Regulatory Analysis and Development
PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71
4700 River Road, Unit 118
Riverdale, MD 20737-1238

March 30, 2004

RE: Docket No. 03-031-2

Dear Sir or Madam:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on USDA Docket No. 03-031-2 regarding the environmental impact statement you are in the process of developing for genetically engineered crops and organisms.

I am aware that the USDA is considering allowing unapproved varieties of genetically engineered organisms to enter the food supply by exempting from regulation the occurrence of low levels of these varieties. It would be negligent for the USDA to allow varieties unapproved for human consumption to enter the food supply.

I am requesting that the following four determinations be included in the Environmental Impact Statement.

- 1) There should be no open-air plantings of "biopharm crops", crops engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals.
- 2) "Biopharm crops" should not be engineered into food crops.
- 3) There should be no exemptions for the occurrence of low levels of unapproved varieties in the food supply.
- 4) There must be regulations in place to ensure that all GE crops are appropriately monitored.

New evidence shows that contamination of non-genetically engineered (GE) crops with DNA from genetically engineered organisms is becoming an increasingly serious problem in this country. The National Research Council recently presented the USDA with a report addressing the need for biological confinement of genetically engineered organisms. Additionally, the Union of Concerned Scientists, an independent nonprofit alliance of more than 100,000 concerned citizens and scientists, just released a report demonstrating the pervasiveness of contamination in US supplies of non-GE corn, soybean and canola seeds.

It would be irresponsible for the USDA to ignore these recent findings and continue to allow outdoor plantings of genetically engineered crops, especially those engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals. If open-air plantings of these "biopharm" crops are allowed, contamination of the food supply is inevitable.

Thank you for taking these concerns into consideration.

Sincerely,



Nifer Fahrion
320 Turk Street, #305
San Francisco, CA. 94102

APR - 5 2004

Docket No. 03-031-2
Regulatory Analysis and Development
PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71
4700 River Road, Unit 118
Riverdale, MD 20737-1238

RE: Docket No. 03-031-2

Dear Sir or Madam:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on USDA Docket No. 03-031-2 regarding the environmental impact statement you are in the process of developing for genetically engineered crops and organisms.

New evidence shows that contamination of non-genetically engineered (GE) crops with DNA from genetically engineered organisms is becoming an increasingly serious problem in this country. The National Research Council recently presented the USDA with a report addressing the need for biological confinement of GE organisms. Additionally, the Union of Concerned Scientists, an independent nonprofit alliance of more than 100,000 concerned citizens and scientists, just released a report demonstrating the pervasiveness of contamination in US supplies of non-GE corn, soybean and canola seeds.

It would be irresponsible for the USDA to ignore these recent findings and continue to allow outdoor plantings of GE crops, especially those engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals. If open-air plantings of these biopharm crops are allowed, contamination of the food supply is inevitable.

I am aware that the USDA is considering allowing unapproved varieties of GE organisms to enter the food supply by exempting from regulation the occurrence of low levels of these varieties. It would be negligent for the USDA to allow varieties unapproved for human consumption to enter the food supply.

I am requesting that the following four determinations be included in the Environmental Impact Statement.

--There should be no open-air plantings of biopharm crops, crops engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals.

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MAR 15 2004

--Biopharm crops should not be engineered into food crops.

--There should be no exemptions for the occurrence of low levels of unapproved varieties in the food supply.

--There must be regulations in place to ensure that all GE crops are appropriately monitored.

Thank you for taking these concerns into consideration.

Sincerely,

Tina Rivera-Moody

Wayne & Tina Moody
12800 Hwy 101
Hopland, CA 95449

*Sharon Hansen*707-937-1113, fax -5602, email: tw@mcn.org

31901 Middle Ridge Road, Albion CA 95410

Tuesday, March 9, 2004

Regulatory Analysis and Development
PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71
4700 River Road, Unit 118
Riverdale, MD 20737-1238

RE: Docket No. 03-031-2

Dear Sir or Madam:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on USDA Docket No. 03-031-2 regarding the environmental impact statement you are in the process of developing for genetically engineered crops and organisms.

New evidence shows that contamination of non-genetically engineered (GE) crops with DNA from genetically engineered organisms is becoming an increasingly serious problem in this country. The National Research Council recently presented the USDA with a report addressing the need for biological confinement of GE organisms. Additionally, the Union of Concerned Scientists, an independent nonprofit alliance of more than 100,000 concerned citizens and scientists, just released a report demonstrating the pervasiveness of contamination in US supplies of non-GE corn, soybean and canola seeds.

It would be irresponsible for the USDA to ignore these recent findings and continue to allow outdoor plantings of GE crops, especially those engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals. If open-air plantings of these biopharm crops are allowed, contamination of the food supply is inevitable.

I am aware that the USDA is considering allowing unapproved varieties of GE organisms to enter the food supply by exempting from regulation the occurrence of low levels of these varieties. It would be negligent for the USDA to allow varieties unapproved for human consumption to enter the food supply.

I am requesting that the following four determinations be included in the Environmental Impact Statement.

--There should be no open-air plantings of biopharm crops, crops engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals.

--Biopharm crops should not be engineered into food crops.

--There should be no exemptions for the occurrence of low levels of unapproved varieties in the food supply.

--There must be regulations in place to ensure that all GE crops are appropriately monitored.

Thank you for taking these concerns into consideration.

Sincerely,

Sharon Hansen

RECEIVED
MAR 15 2004

Tom Wodetzki, Investment Adviser

707-937-1113, fax -5602, email: tw@mcn.org

31901 Middle Ridge Road, Albion CA 95410

Tuesday, March 9, 2004

Regulatory Analysis and Development
PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71
4700 River Road, Unit 118
Riverdale, MD 20737-1238

RE: Docket No. 03-031-2

Dear Sir or Madam:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on USDA Docket No. 03-031-2 regarding the environmental impact statement you are in the process of developing for genetically engineered crops and organisms.

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It would be irresponsible for the USDA to ignore these recent findings and continue to allow outdoor plantings of GE crops, especially those engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals. If open-air plantings of these biopharm crops are allowed, contamination of the food supply is inevitable.

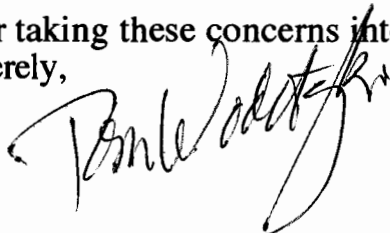
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I am requesting that the following four determinations be included in the Environmental Impact Statement.

- There should be no open-air plantings of biopharm crops, crops engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals.
- Biopharm crops should not be engineered into food crops.
- There should be no exemptions for the occurrence of low levels of unapproved varieties in the food supply.
- There must be regulations in place to ensure that all GE crops are appropriately monitored.

Thank you for taking these concerns into consideration.

Sincerely,



RECEIVED

MAR 15 2004

Docket No. 03-031-2
Regulatory Analysis and Development
PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71
4700 River Road, Unit 118
Riverdale, MD 20737-1238

RE: Docket No. 03-031-2

Dear Sir or Madam:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on USDA Docket No. 03-031-2 regarding the environmental impact statement you are in the process of developing for genetically engineered crops and organisms.

New evidence shows that contamination of non-genetically engineered (GE) crops with DNA from genetically engineered organisms is becoming an increasingly serious problem in this country. The National Research Council recently presented the USDA with a report addressing the need for biological confinement of GE organisms. Additionally, the Union of Concerned Scientists, an independent nonprofit alliance of more than 100,000 concerned citizens and scientists, just released a report demonstrating the pervasiveness of contamination in US supplies of non-GE corn, soybean and canola seeds.

It would be irresponsible for the USDA to ignore these recent findings and continue to allow outdoor plantings of GE crops, especially those engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals. If open-air plantings of these biopharm crops are allowed, contamination of the food supply is inevitable.

I am aware that the USDA is considering allowing unapproved varieties of GE organisms to enter the food supply by exempting from regulation the occurrence of low levels of these varieties. It would be negligent for the USDA to allow varieties unapproved for human consumption to enter the food supply.

I am requesting that the following four determinations be included in the Environmental Impact Statement.

--There should be no open-air plantings of biopharm crops, crops engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals.

--Biopharm crops should not be engineered into food crops.

--There should be no exemptions for the occurrence of low levels of unapproved varieties in the food supply.

--There must be regulations in place to ensure that all GE crops are appropriately monitored.

Thank you for taking these concerns into consideration.

Sincerely,



RECEIVED

MAR 15 2004

Docket No. 03-031-2
Regulatory Analysis and Development
PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71
4700 River Road, Unit 118
Riverdale, MD 20737-1238

RE: Docket No. 03-031-2

Dear Sir or Madam:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on USDA Docket No. 03-031-2 regarding the environmental impact statement you are in the process of developing for genetically engineered crops and organisms.

New evidence shows that contamination of non-genetically engineered (GE) crops with DNA from genetically engineered organisms is becoming an increasingly serious problem in this country. The National Research Council recently presented the USDA with a report addressing the need for biological confinement of GE organisms. Additionally, the Union of Concerned Scientists, an independent nonprofit alliance of more than 100,000 concerned citizens and scientists, just released a report demonstrating the pervasiveness of contamination in US supplies of non-GE corn, soybean and canola seeds.

It would be irresponsible for the USDA to ignore these recent findings and continue to allow outdoor plantings of GE crops, especially those engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals. If open-air plantings of these biopharm crops are allowed, contamination of the food supply is inevitable.

I am aware that the USDA is considering allowing unapproved varieties of GE organisms to enter the food supply by exempting from regulation the occurrence of low levels of these varieties. It would be negligent for the USDA to allow varieties unapproved for human consumption to enter the food supply.

I am requesting that the following four determinations be included in the Environmental Impact Statement.

--There should be no open-air plantings of biopharm crops, crops engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals.

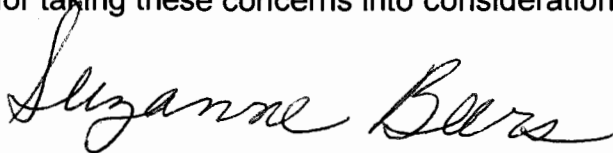
--Biopharm crops should not be engineered into food crops.

--There should be no exemptions for the occurrence of low levels of unapproved varieties in the food supply.

--There must be regulations in place to ensure that all GE crops are appropriately monitored.

Thank you for taking these concerns into consideration.

Sincerely,



RECEIVED

MAR 15 2004

Docket No. 03-031-2
Regulatory Analysis and Development
PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71
4700 River Road, Unit 118
Riverdale, MD 20737-1238

RE: Docket No. 03-031-2

Dear Sir or Madam:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on USDA Docket No. 03-031-2 regarding the environmental impact statement you are in the process of developing for genetically engineered crops and organisms.

New evidence shows that contamination of non-genetically engineered (GE) crops with DNA from genetically engineered organisms is becoming an increasingly serious problem in this country. The National Research Council recently presented the USDA with a report addressing the need for biological confinement of GE organisms. Additionally, the Union of Concerned Scientists, an independent nonprofit alliance of more than 100,000 concerned citizens and scientists, just released a report demonstrating the pervasiveness of contamination in US supplies of non-GE corn, soybean and canola seeds.

It would be irresponsible for the USDA to ignore these recent findings and continue to allow outdoor plantings of GE crops, especially those engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals. If open-air plantings of these biopharm crops are allowed, contamination of the food supply is inevitable.

I am aware that the USDA is considering allowing unapproved varieties of GE organisms to enter the food supply by exempting from regulation the occurrence of low levels of these varieties. It would be negligent for the USDA to allow varieties unapproved for human consumption to enter the food supply.

I am requesting that the following four determinations be included in the Environmental Impact Statement.

--There should be no open-air plantings of biopharm crops, crops engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals.

--Biopharm crops should not be engineered into food crops.

--There should be no exemptions for the occurrence of low levels of unapproved varieties in the food supply.

--There must be regulations in place to ensure that all GE crops are appropriately monitored.

Thank you for taking these concerns into consideration.

Sincerely,

Virginia Romero

VIRGINIA Romero
793 Apple Ave.
Ukiah Ca 95482

RECEIVED
MAR 15 2004

Regulatory Analysis and Development
PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71
4700 River Road, Unit 118
Riverdale, MD 20737-1238

February 28, 2004

RE: Docket No. 03-031-2

Dear Sirs:

New evidence shows that contamination of non-genetically engineered (GE) crops with DNA from genetically engineered organisms is becoming an increasingly serious problem in this country. The National Research Council recently presented the USDA with a report addressing the need for biological confinement of genetically engineered organisms. Additionally, the Union of Concerned Scientists, an independent nonprofit alliance of more than 100,000 concerned citizens and scientists, recently released a report demonstrating the pervasiveness of contamination in US supplies of non-GE corn, soybean and canola seeds.

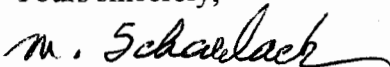
I believe it would be irresponsible for the USDA to ignore these recent findings and continue to allow outdoor plantings of genetically engineered crops, especially those engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals. If open-air plantings of these "biopharm crops" are allowed, contamination of the food supply appears to be inevitable.

Also, I am aware that the USDA is considering allowing unapproved varieties of genetically engineered organisms to enter the food supply by exempting from regulation the occurrence of low levels of these varieties. I think it would be negligent for the USDA to allow varieties unapproved for human consumption to enter the food supply.

Therefore, I request that the following four determinations be included in the Environmental Impact Statement:

- 1) There should be no open-air plantings of biopharm crops engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals.
- 2) Biopharm crops should not be engineered into food crops.
- 3) There should be no exemptions for the occurrence of low levels of unapproved varieties in the food supply.
- 4) There must be regulations in place to ensure that all GE crops are appropriately monitored.

Yours sincerely,



Meyer Scharlack
127 Darwin Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

RECEIVED

MAR 15 2004

Docket No. 03-031-2
Regulatory Analysis and Development
PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71
4700 River Road, Unit 118
Riverdale, MD 20737-1238

RE: Docket No. 03-031-2

Dear Sir or Madam:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on USDA Docket No. 03-031-2 regarding the environmental impact statement you are in the process of developing for genetically engineered crops and organisms.

New evidence shows that contamination of non-genetically engineered (GE) crops with DNA from genetically engineered organisms is becoming an increasingly serious problem in this country. The National Research Council recently presented the USDA with a report addressing the need for biological confinement of GE organisms. Additionally, the Union of Concerned Scientists, an independent nonprofit alliance of more than 100,000 concerned citizens and scientists, just released a report demonstrating the pervasiveness of contamination in US supplies of non-GE corn, soybean and canola seeds.

It would be irresponsible for the USDA to ignore these recent findings and continue to allow outdoor plantings of GE crops, especially those engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals. If open-air plantings of these biopharm crops are allowed, contamination of the food supply is inevitable.

I am aware that the USDA is considering allowing unapproved varieties of GE organisms to enter the food supply by exempting from regulation the occurrence of low levels of these varieties. It would be negligent for the USDA to allow varieties unapproved for human consumption to enter the food supply.

I am requesting that the following four determinations be included in the Environmental Impact Statement.

--There should be no open-air plantings of biopharm crops, crops engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals.

--Biopharm crops should not be engineered into food crops.

--There should be no exemptions for the occurrence of low levels of unapproved varieties in the food supply.

--There must be regulations in place to ensure that all GE crops are appropriately monitored.

Thank you for taking these concerns into consideration.

Sincerely,



Melissa Griffin

RECEIVED

MAR 15 2004

03-031-2

Docket No. 03-031-2
Regulatory Analysis and Development
PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71
4700 River Road, Unit 118
Riverdale, MD 20737-1238

RE: Docket No. 03-031-2

Dear Sir or Madam:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on USDA Docket No. 03-031-2 regarding the environmental impact statement you are in the process of developing for genetically engineered crops and organisms.

New evidence shows that contamination of non-genetically engineered (GE) crops with DNA from genetically engineered organisms is becoming an increasingly serious problem in this country. The National Research Council recently presented the USDA with a report addressing the need for biological confinement of GE organisms. Additionally, the Union of Concerned Scientists, an independent nonprofit alliance of more than 100,000 concerned citizens and scientists, just released a report demonstrating the pervasiveness of contamination in US supplies of non-GE corn, soybean and canola seeds.

It would be irresponsible for the USDA to ignore these recent findings and continue to allow outdoor plantings of GE crops, especially those engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals. If open-air plantings of these biopharm crops are allowed, contamination of the food supply is inevitable.

I am aware that the USDA is considering allowing unapproved varieties of GE organisms to enter the food supply by exempting from regulation the occurrence of low levels of these varieties. It would be negligent for the USDA to allow varieties unapproved for human consumption to enter the food supply.

I am requesting that the following four determinations be included in the Environmental Impact Statement.

--There should be no open-air plantings of biopharm crops, crops engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals.

--Biopharm crops should not be engineered into food crops.

--There should be no exemptions for the occurrence of low levels of unapproved varieties in the food supply.

--There must be regulations in place to ensure that all GE crops are appropriately monitored.

Thank you for taking these concerns into consideration.

Sincerely,

Marcela Rios
26 Riah, GA 95482

MAR 29 2004

JOANNE MOORE
ATTORNEY AT LAW
713 S. MAIN ST., C-3 (OFFICE)
26010 STRING CREEK ROAD (MAIL)
WILLITS, CA 95490
(707) 459-9100
JOANNEM@SONIC.NET

April 5, 2004

Regulatory Analysis and Development
PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71
4700 River Road, Unit 118
Riverdale, MD 20737-1238

Re: Docket No. 03-031-2

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment regarding the environmental impact statement you are in the process of developing for genetically engineered crops and organisms.

Evidence shows that contamination of non-genetically engineered crops with DNA from genetically engineered organisms is becoming an increasingly serious problem in this country. The National Research Council recently presented the USDA with a report addressing the need for biological confinement of GE organisms. Additionally, the Union of Concerned Scientists, an independent nonprofit association of more than 100,000 concerned citizens and scientists, just released a report demonstrating the pervasiveness of contamination in US supplies of non-GE corn, soybean and canola seeds.

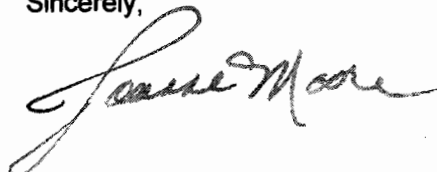
It would be irresponsible for the USDA to ignore these recent findings and continue to allow outdoor plantings of GE crops, especially those engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals. If open-air plantings of these biopharm crops are allowed, contamination of the food supply is inevitable. I have even heard of the possibility of a pharm crop which would produce spermicide. Think if that got into the food chain?!?!?!?

I am aware that the USDA is considering allowing unapproved varieties of GE organisms to enter the food supply by exempting from regulation the occurrence of low levels of these varieties. It would be negligent for the USDA to allow varieties unapproved for human consumption to enter the food supply. Come to think of it, I don't think any GE organisms should be allowed to be in the environment, much less approved for human consumption. Shame on the whole industry...and the government for looking the other way.

I am requesting that the following four determinations be included in the Environmental Impact Statement.

1. There should be no open-air plantings of biopharm crops, crops engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals.
 2. Biopharm crops should not be engineered into food crops.
 3. There should be no exemptions for the occurrence of low levels of unapproved varieties in the food supply.
 4. There must be regulation in place to ensure that all GE crops are appropriately monitored.
- Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,



RECEIVED

APR 13 2004

Docket No. 03-031-2
Regulatory Analysis and Development
PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71
4700 River Road, Unit 118
Riverdale, MD 20737-1238

03-031-2

RE: Docket No. 03-031-2

Dear Sir or Madam:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on USDA Docket No. 03-031-2 regarding the environmental impact statement you are in the process of developing for genetically engineered crops and organisms.

New evidence shows that contamination of non-genetically engineered (GE) crops with DNA from genetically engineered organisms is becoming an increasingly serious problem in this country. The National Research Council recently presented the USDA with a report addressing the need for biological confinement of genetically engineered organisms. Additionally, the Union of Concerned Scientists, an independent nonprofit alliance of more than 100,000 concerned citizens and scientists, just released a report demonstrating the pervasiveness of contamination in US supplies of non-GE corn, soybean and canola seeds.

It would be irresponsible for the USDA to ignore these recent findings and continue to allow outdoor plantings of genetically engineered crops, especially those engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals. If open-air plantings of these "biopharm" crops are allowed, contamination of the food supply is inevitable.

I am aware that the USDA is considering allowing unapproved varieties of genetically engineered organisms to enter the food supply by exempting from regulation the occurrence of low levels of these varieties. It would be negligent for the USDA to allow varieties unapproved for human consumption to enter the food supply.

I am requesting that the following four determinations be included in the Environmental Impact

Statement.

- 1) There should be no open-air plantings of "biopharm crops", crops engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals.
- 2) "Biopharm crops" should not be engineered into food crops.
- 3) There should be no exemptions for the occurrence of low levels of unapproved varieties in the food supply.
- 4) There must be regulations in place to ensure that all GE crops are appropriately monitored.

Thank you for taking these concerns into consideration.

Sincerely,

Lynn K. Wittenmyer
10550 Bailey Rd.
Waterville, Ct. 06096

RECEIVED

APR 13 2004

Docket No. 03-031-2
Regulatory Analysis and Development
PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71
4700 River Road, Unit 118
Riverdale, MD 20737-1238

RE: Docket No. 03-031-2

Dear Sir or Madam:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on USDA Docket No. 03-031-2 regarding the environmental impact statement you are in the process of developing for genetically engineered crops and organisms.

New evidence shows that contamination of non-genetically engineered (GE) crops with DNA from genetically engineered organisms is becoming an increasingly serious problem in this country. The National Research Council recently presented the USDA with a report addressing the need for biological confinement of genetically engineered organisms. Additionally, the Union of Concerned Scientists, an independent nonprofit alliance of more than 100,000 concerned citizens and scientists, just released a report demonstrating the pervasiveness of contamination in US supplies of non-GE corn, soybean and canola seeds.

It would be irresponsible for the USDA to ignore these recent findings and continue to allow outdoor plantings of genetically engineered crops, especially those engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals. If open-air plantings of these "biopharm" crops are allowed, contamination of the food supply is inevitable.

I am aware that the USDA is considering allowing unapproved varieties of genetically engineered organisms to enter the food supply by exempting from regulation the occurrence of low levels of these varieties. It would be negligent for the USDA to allow varieties unapproved for human consumption to enter the food supply.

I am requesting that the following four determinations be included in the Environmental Impact Statement.

- 1) There should be no open-air plantings of "biopharm crops", crops engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals.
- 2) "Biopharm crops" should not be engineered into food crops.
- 3) There should be no exemptions for the occurrence of low levels of unapproved varieties in the food supply.
- 4) There must be regulations in place to ensure that all GE crops are appropriately monitored.

Thank you for taking these concerns into consideration.

Sincerely,



RECEIVED

APR 13 2004

Docket No. 03-031-2
Regulatory Analysis and Development
PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71
4700 River Road, Unit 118
Riverdale, MD 20737-1238

RE: Docket No. 03-031-2

Dear Sir or Madam:

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New evidence shows that contamination of non-genetically engineered (GE) crops with DNA from genetically engineered organisms is becoming an increasingly serious problem in this country. The National Research Council recently presented the USDA with a report addressing the need for biological confinement of genetically engineered organisms. Additionally, the Union of Concerned Scientists, an independent nonprofit alliance of more than 100,000 concerned citizens and scientists, just released a report demonstrating the pervasiveness of contamination in US supplies of non-GE corn, soybean and canola seeds.

It would be irresponsible for the USDA to ignore these recent findings and continue to allow outdoor plantings of genetically engineered crops, especially those engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals. If open-air plantings of these "biopharm" crops are allowed, contamination of the food supply is inevitable.

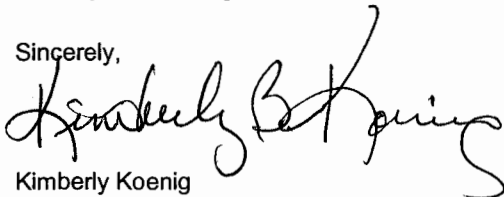
I am aware that the USDA is considering allowing unapproved varieties of genetically engineered organisms to enter the food supply by exempting from regulation the occurrence of low levels of these varieties. It would be negligent for the USDA to allow varieties unapproved for human consumption to enter the food supply.

I am requesting that the following four determinations be included in the Environmental Impact Statement.

- 1) There should be no open-air plantings of "biopharm crops", crops engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals.
- 2) "Biopharm crops" should not be engineered into food crops.
- 3) There should be no exemptions for the occurrence of low levels of unapproved varieties in the food supply.
- 4) There must be regulations in place to ensure that all GE crops are appropriately monitored.

Thank you for taking these concerns into consideration.

Sincerely,



Kimberly Koenig

5760 Beech Ave.

Coloma, MI 49038

APR 12 2004

03-031-2

5910 Suson Place #4
St. Louis, MO 63139
April 4, 2004

Regulatory Analysis and Development
PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71
4700 River Road, Unit 118
Riverdale, MD 20737-1238

RE: Docket No. 03-031-2

Dear Sir or Madam:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on USDA Docket No. 03-031-2 regarding the environmental impact statement you are in the process of developing for genetically engineered crops and organisms.

The National Research Council recently presented the USDA with a report addressing the need for biological confinement of genetically engineered organisms. Additionally, the Union of Concerned Scientists, an independent nonprofit alliance of more than 100,000 concerned citizens and scientists, just released a report demonstrating the pervasiveness of contamination in US supplies of non-GE corn, soybean and canola seeds.

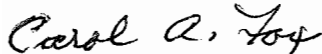
We are aware that the USDA is considering allowing unapproved varieties of genetically engineered organisms to enter the food supply by exempting from regulation the occurrence of low levels of these varieties. It would be negligent for the USDA to allow varieties unapproved for human consumption to enter the food supply.

We are requesting that the following four determinations be included in the Environmental Impact Statement.

- 1) There should be no open-air plantings of biopharm crops, crops engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals.
- 2) Biopharm crops should not be permitted to be engineered into food crops.
- 3) There should be no exemptions for the occurrence of low levels of unapproved varieties in the food supply.
- 4) There must be regulations in place to ensure that ALL GE crops are appropriately monitored.

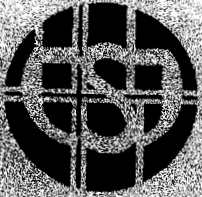
Thank you for taking these concerns into consideration.

Sincerely,



Carol A. Fox

APR - 8 2004



*Celebrating
justice
and service
for over
350 years*

Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet

St. Louis Province

Social Justice Office

Regulatory Analysis and Development
PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71
4700 River Road, Unit 118
Riverdale, MD 20737-1238

RE: Docket No. 03-031-2

I write as Justice Coordinator with over 600 Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet and Associates. We belong to the US Federation, which includes 8,000+.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on USDA Docket No. 03-031-2 regarding the environmental impact statement you are in the process of developing for genetically engineered crops and organisms.

We join the National Research Council requesting biological confinement of genetically engineered organisms. As you know, the Union of Concerned Scientists just released a report demonstrating the pervasiveness of contamination in US supplies of non-GE corn, soybean and canola seeds.

We are aware that the USDA is considering allowing unapproved varieties of genetically engineered organisms to enter the food supply by exempting from regulation the occurrence of low levels of these varieties. It would be negligent for the USDA to allow varieties unapproved for human consumption to enter the food supply.

We are requesting that the following four determinations be included in the Environmental Impact Statement.

- ❖ ❖ There should be no open-air plantings of biopharm crops, crops engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals.
- ❖ ❖ Biopharm crops should not be permitted to be engineered into food crops.
- ❖ ❖ There should be no exemptions for the occurrence of low levels of unapproved varieties in the food supply.
- ❖ ❖ There must be regulations in place to ensure that ALL GE crops are appropriately monitored.

Thank you for taking these concerns into consideration. I would appreciate your prompt response and will look forward to your final ruling.

Sincerely,

Diana Oleskevich mph
Justice Coordinator

APR - 5 2004

Docket No. 03-031-2
Regulatory Analysis and Development
PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71
4700 River Road, Unit 118
Riverdale, MD 20737-1238

RE: Docket No. 03-031-2

To Whom it may concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on USDA Docket No. 03-031-2 regarding the environmental impact statement you are in the process of developing for genetically engineered crops and organisms.

New evidence shows that contamination of non-genetically engineered (GE) crops with DNA from genetically engineered organisms is becoming an increasingly serious problem in this country. The National Research Council recently presented the USDA with a report addressing the need for biological confinement of genetically engineered organisms. Additionally, the Union of Concerned Scientists, an independent nonprofit alliance of more than 100,000 concerned citizens and scientists, just released a report demonstrating the pervasiveness of contamination in US supplies of non-GE corn, soybean and canola seeds.

It would be highly irresponsible for the USDA to ignore these recent findings and continue to allow outdoor plantings of genetically engineered crops, especially those engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals. If open-air plantings of these "biopharm" crops are allowed, contamination of the food supply is inevitable.

I am aware that the USDA is considering allowing unapproved varieties of genetically engineered organisms to enter the food supply by exempting from regulation the occurrence of low levels of these varieties. It would be negligent for the USDA to allow varieties unapproved for human consumption to enter the food supply. I feel more testing is needed.

I am requesting that the following determinations be included in the Environmental Impact Statement:

- New regulations must include a comprehensive assessment of the economic impacts GE crops have had on family farmers and rural communities, and a socioeconomic assessment for all new GE crop and food varieties.
- There should be no open-air plantings of any GE crops, including "biopharm crops," at University research facilities that grow foundation and public seed stock varieties. If testing is allowed it must be conducted in closed, fully contained experimental facilities with a strict zero-tolerance for contamination attached. Financial responsibility bonds should be made mandatory to cover the cost of liability due to contamination.
- Plant and animal species used for food or feed should not be used to produce pharmaceuticals or industrial chemicals;
- There should be no exemptions for the occurrence of low levels of DNA from unapproved GE varieties in the food supply;
- No additional organisms should be allowed to be genetically engineered into crops unless there is proof that the genetically engineered DNA will not migrate into other living organisms and the environment.

Thank you for taking these concerns into consideration.

Sincerely,

Michael J Adkins

2400 Neva Dr.

Dayton, OH 45414

RECEIVED
MAR 29 2004

Docket No. 03-031-2
Regulatory Analysis and Development
PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71
4700 River Road, Unit 118
Riverdale, MD 20737-1238

03-031-2
P.O. Box 848
105 Deception Lane
JEROME, AZ 86331
3/5/04

RE: Docket No. 03-031-2

Dear Sir or Madam:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on USDA Docket No. 03-031-2 regarding the environmental impact statement you are in the process of developing for genetically engineered crops and organisms.

New evidence shows that contamination of non-genetically engineered (GE) crops with DNA from genetically engineered organisms is becoming an increasingly serious problem in this country. The National Research Council recently presented the USDA with a report addressing the need for biological confinement of genetically engineered organisms. Additionally, the Union of Concerned Scientists, an independent nonprofit alliance of more than 100,000 concerned citizens and scientists, just released a report demonstrating the pervasiveness of contamination in US supplies of non-GE corn, soybean and canola seeds.

It would be irresponsible for the USDA to ignore these recent findings and continue to allow outdoor plantings of genetically engineered crops, especially those engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals. If open-air plantings of these "biopharm" crops are allowed, contamination of the food supply is inevitable.

I am aware that the USDA is considering allowing unapproved varieties of genetically engineered organisms to enter the food supply by exempting from regulation the occurrence of low levels of these varieties. It would be negligent for the USDA to allow varieties unapproved for human consumption to enter the food supply.

I am requesting that the following four determinations be included in the Environmental Impact Statement.

- 1) There should be no open-air plantings of "biopharm crops", crops engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals.
- 2) "Biopharm crops" should not be engineered into food crops.
- 3) There should be no exemptions for the occurrence of low levels of unapproved varieties in the food supply.
- 4) There must be regulations in place to ensure that all GE crops are appropriately monitored.

Thank you for taking these concerns into consideration.

RECEIVED

MAR 09 2004

Mary R. Currier
MARY R. CURRIER

Docket No. 03-031-2
Regulatory Analysis and Development,
PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71
4700 River Road, Unit 118
Riverdale, MD 20737-1238

March 11, 2004

Dear Sir or Madam:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on USDA Docket No. 03-031-2 regarding the environmental impact statement you are in the process of developing for genetically engineered crops and organisms.

New evidence shows that contamination of non-genetically engineered (GE) crops with DNA from genetically engineered organisms is becoming an increasingly serious problem in this country. The National Research Council recently presented the USDA with a report addressing the need for biological confinement of genetically engineered organisms. Additionally, the Union of Concerned Scientists, an independent nonprofit alliance of more than 100,000 concerned citizens and scientists, just released a report demonstrating the pervasiveness of contamination in US supplies of non-GE corn, soybean and canola seeds.

It would be irresponsible for the USDA to ignore these recent findings and continue to allow outdoor plantings of genetically engineered crops, especially those engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals. If open-air plantings of these °Bbiopharm°® crops are allowed, contamination of the food supply is inevitable.

I am aware that the USDA is considering allowing unapproved varieties of genetically engineered organisms to enter the food supply by exempting from regulation the occurrence of low levels of these varieties. It would be negligent for the USDA to allow varieties unapproved for human consumption to enter the food supply.

I am requesting that the following four determinations be included in the Environmental Impact Statement.

- 1) There should be no open-air plantings of °Bbiopharm crops°®, crops engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals.
- 2) °Bbiopharm crops°® should not be engineered into food crops.
- 3) There should be no exemptions for the occurrence of low levels of unapproved varieties in the food supply.
- 4) There must be regulations in place to ensure that all GE crops are appropriately monitored.

Thank you for taking these concerns into consideration.

Sincerely,



Keith L. Proctor
P.O. Box 7775
Santa Cruz, CA 95061

RECEIVED

MAR 16 2004

Craig M. Belling
2005 Meadowview Drive
Crestwood, KY 40014-9261

03-031-2
COPY

March 17, 2004

Docket No. 03-031-2
Regulatory Analysis and Development,
PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71
4700 River Road, Unit 118
Riverdale, MD 20737-1238

RE: Docket No. 03-031-2

Dear Sir or Madam:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on USDA Docket No. 03-031-2 regarding the environmental impact statement you are in the process of developing for genetically engineered crops and organisms.

New evidence shows that contamination of non-genetically engineered (GE) crops with DNA from genetically engineered organisms is becoming an increasingly serious problem in this country. The National Research Council recently presented the USDA with a report addressing the need for biological confinement of genetically engineered organisms. Additionally, the Union of Concerned Scientists, an independent nonprofit alliance of more than 100,000 concerned citizens and scientists, just released a report demonstrating the pervasiveness of contamination in US supplies of non-GE corn, soybean and canola seeds.

It would be irresponsible for the USDA to ignore these recent findings and continue to allow outdoor plantings of genetically engineered crops, especially those engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals. If open-air plantings of these "biopharm" crops are allowed, contamination of the food supply is inevitable.

I am aware that the USDA is considering allowing unapproved varieties of genetically engineered organisms to enter the food supply by exempting from regulation the occurrence of low levels of these varieties. It would be negligent for the USDA to allow varieties unapproved for human consumption to enter the food supply.

I am requesting that the following four determinations be included in the Environmental Impact Statement:

- 1) There should be no open-air plantings of "biopharm crops", crops engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals.
- 2) "Biopharm crops" should not be engineered into food crops.
- 3) There should be no exemptions for the occurrence of low levels of unapproved varieties in the food supply.
- 4) There must be regulations in place to ensure that all GE crops are appropriately monitored.

Thank you for taking these concerns into consideration.

Sincerely,

Craig M. Belling

Craig M. Belling

RECEIVED

MAR 22 2004

DOCKET # 03-031-2

REGULATORY ANALYSIS & DEVELOPMENT

PPD, APHIS, STATION 3-6-71

4700 RIVER RD, UNIT 118

RIVERDALE, MD 20737-1238

US DA REEVALUATION OF GE PHARMACUTICAL PLANTS:

I AM OPPOSED TO GENETIC ENGINEERING OF ANY PLANTS OR ANIMALS WITHOUT STRICT INDEPENDENT CONTROL, MONITORING AND RESEARCH INTO SHORT AND LONG TERM EFFECTS ON THE HUMAN ANIMAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH.

SINCE GE SEED IS CONTAMINATING OUR CONVENTIONAL SEED AT AN ALARMING RATE AND CONTAINMENT IS IMPOSSIBLE IN OUTDOOR CULTIVATION, I WANT:

- 1) ALL PHARMACUTICAL GE PLANTS GROWN INDOORS WITH STRICT CONTAINMENT PROCEDURES.
- 2) NO GE PHARMACUTICALS IN FOOD PLANTS.
- 3) NO EXEMPTIONS FOR GE SEED CONTAMINATION IN NATURAL SEED.
- 4) ORIGINAL SOURCE OF GE SEED CONTAMINATION IN NATURAL SEED SUPPLY HELD LIABLE.
- 5) REGULATION AND FUNDING TO INDEPENDENTLY MONITOR & RESEARCH SHORT & LONG TERM ENVIRONMENTAL & HEALTH EFFECTS ON HUMANS AND ANIMALS.

RECEIVED

MAR 22 2004

James H. LaRue

DOCKET # 03-031-2
REGULATORY ANALYSIS & DEVELOPMENT
PPD, APHIS, STATION 3-6-71
4700 RIVER RD, UNIT 118
RIVERDALE, MD 20737-1238

US DA REEVALUATION OF GE PHARMACEUTICAL PLANTS:

I AM OPPOSED TO GENETIC ENGINEERING OF ANY PLANTS OR ANIMALS WITHOUT STRICT INDEPENDENT CONTROL, MONITORING AND RESEARCH INTO SHORT AND LONG TERM EFFECTS ON THE HUMAN ANIMAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH.

SINCE GE SEED IS CONTAMINATING OUR CONVENTIONAL SEED AT AN ALARMING RATE AND CONTAINMENT IS IMPOSSIBLE IN OUTDOOR CULTIVATION, I WANT:

- 1) ALL PHARMACEUTICAL GE PLANTS GROWN INDOORS WITH STRICT CONTAINMENT PROCEDURES.
- 2) NO GE PHARMACEUTICALS IN FOOD PLANTS.
- 3) NO EXEMPTIONS FOR GE SEED CONTAMINATION IN NATURAL SEED.
- 4) ORIGINAL SOURCE OF GE SEED CONTAMINATION IN NATURAL SEED SUPPLY HELD LIABLE.
- 5) REGULATION AND FUNDING TO INDEPENDENTLY MONITOR & RESEARCH SHORT & LONG TERM ENVIRONMENTAL & HEALTH EFFECTS ON HUMANS AND ANIMALS.

RECEIVED

MAR 22 2004

Jane M. Phil

USDA letter March 08, 2004

Regarding a Center for Food Safety Call For Action* Thank you for the opportunity to comment on USDA Docket No. 03-031-2 regarding the environmental impact statement you are developing for genetically engineered crops and organisms.

I am aware that the USDA is considering allowing unapproved varieties of GE organisms to enter the food supply by exempting from regulation low levels of these varieties for human consumption!

It would be negligent and irresponsible for the USDA to ignore recent findings by the National Research Council to continue to allow outdoor plantings of GE crops - especially those engineered with pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals.

I am requesting the following be included in the Environmental Impact Statement:

No open-air planting of GMO crops; crops engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals should be approved.

Biopharm crops should not be engineered into food crops.

No exemptions for even low levels of unapproved varieties in the food supply should be approved.

There must be regulations in place to ensure that all GE crops are continually and appropriately monitored.

Thank you for taking these concerns into consideration,

Sincerely,



Mrs. Betty J. Rack

P.O.Box 1147

Mendocino, CA 95460

(707) 961 0147

Docket No. 03-031-2
Regulatory Analysis and Development
PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71
4700 River Road, Unit 118
Riverdale, MD 20737-1238

RE: Docket No. 03-031-2

Dear Sir or Madam:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on USDA Docket No. 03-031-2 regarding the environmental impact statement you are in the process of developing for genetically engineered crops and organisms.

New evidence shows that contamination of non-genetically engineered (GE)crops with DNA from genetically engineered organisms is becoming an increasingly serious problem in this country. The National Research Council recently presented the USDA with a report addressing the need for biological confinement of GE organisms. Additionally, the Union of Concerned Scientists, an independent nonprofit alliance of more than 100,000 concerned citizens and scientists, just released a report demonstrating the pervasiveness of contamination in US supplies of non-GE corn, soybean and canola seeds.

It would be irresponsible for the USDA to ignore these recent findings and continue to allow outdoor plantings of GE crops, especially those engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals. If open-air plantings of these biopharm crops are allowed, contamination of the food supply is inevitable.

I am aware that the USDA is considering allowing unapproved varieties of GE organisms to enter the food supply by exempting from regulation the occurrence of low levels of these varieties. It would be negligent for the USDA to allow varieties unapproved for human consumption to enter the food supply.

I am requesting that the following four determinations be included in the Environmental Impact Statement.

--There should be no open-air plantings of biopharm crops, crops engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals.

--Biopharm crops should not be engineered into food crops.

--There should be no exemptions for the occurrence of low levels of unapproved varieties in the food supply.

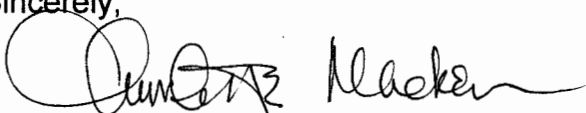
--There must be regulations in place to ensure that all GE crops are appropriately monitored.

Thank you for taking these concerns into consideration.

Sincerely,

RECEIVED

MAR 25 2004

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Macken", is written over a circular stamp that contains the text "Docket No. 03-031-2".

Docket No. 03-031-2
Regulatory Analysis and Development
PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71
4700 River Road, Unit 118
Riverdale, MD 20737-1238

RE: Docket No. 03-031-2

Dear Sir or Madam:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on USDA Docket No. 03-031-2 regarding the environmental impact statement you are in the process of developing for genetically engineered crops and organisms.

New evidence shows that contamination of non-genetically engineered (GE) crops with DNA from genetically engineered organisms is becoming an increasingly serious problem in this country. The National Research Council recently presented the USDA with a report addressing the need for biological confinement of GE organisms. Additionally, the Union of Concerned Scientists, an independent nonprofit alliance of more than 100,000 concerned citizens and scientists, just released a report demonstrating the pervasiveness of contamination in US supplies of non-GE corn, soybean and canola seeds.

It would be irresponsible for the USDA to ignore these recent findings and continue to allow outdoor plantings of GE crops, especially those engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals. If open-air plantings of these biopharm crops are allowed, contamination of the food supply is inevitable.

I am aware that the USDA is considering allowing unapproved varieties of GE organisms to enter the food supply by exempting from regulation the occurrence of low levels of these varieties. It would be negligent for the USDA to allow varieties unapproved for human consumption to enter the food supply.

I am requesting that the following four determinations be included in the Environmental Impact Statement.

- There should be no open-air plantings of biopharm crops, crops engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals.
- Biopharm crops should not be engineered into food crops.
- There should be no exemptions for the occurrence of low levels of unapproved varieties in the food supply.
- There must be regulations in place to ensure that all GE crops are appropriately monitored.

Thank you for taking these concerns into consideration.

Sincerely,

(include full name and address)

MAR 16 2004

KATHARINA ERNST
100 PHILIP TERRACE
NOVATO, CA 94945

1846 Robin Lane
Lodi, CA 95240-7825
March 3, 2004

Docket No. 03-031-2
Regulatory Analysis and Development
PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71
4700 River Road, Unit 118
Riverdale, MD 20737-1238

RE: Docket No. 03-031-2

Dear Sir or Madam:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on USDA Docket No. 03-031-2 regarding the environmental-impact statement you are developing for genetically engineered crops and organisms.

New evidence shows that contamination of non-genetically engineered crops with DNA from genetically engineered organisms is becoming an increasingly serious problem in this country. The National Research Council recently presented the USDA with a report addressing the need for biological confinement of GE organisms. Additionally, the Union of Concerned Scientists, an independent, nonprofit alliance of more than 100,000 concerned individuals and scientists, just released a report demonstrating the pervasiveness of contamination in supplies of non-GE corn, soybean and canola seeds in the United States.

It would be irresponsible for the USDA to ignore these recent findings and continue to allow outdoor plantings of GE crops, especially those engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals. If open-air plantings of these biopharm crops are allowed, contamination of the food supply is inevitable. News reports have documented the fact that such contamination already has occurred in some places, causing some small, organic farmers to lose their organic certification. The economic impact is clear; the full severity of the environmental and public-health impacts has yet to be seen.

I am aware that the USDA is considering allowing unapproved varieties of GE organisms to enter the food supply by exempting from regulation the occurrence of low levels of these varieties. It would be negligent for the USDA to allow varieties unapproved for human consumption to enter the food supply.

I am requesting that the following four determinations be included in the Environmental Impact Statement.

- There should be no open-air plantings of crops engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals, known as biopharm crops.
- Biopharm crops should not be engineered into food crops.
- There should be no exemptions for the occurrence of low levels of unapproved varieties in the food supply.
- There must be regulations in place to ensure that all GE crops are appropriately monitored.

Thank you for taking these concerns into consideration.

Sincerely,


Deborah Blankenberg

RECEIVED
MAR 09 2004

March 6, 2004 03-031-2

Docket No. 03-031-2
Regulatory Analysis and Development
PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71
4700 River Road, Unit 118
Riverdale, MD 20737-1238

RE: Docket No. 03-031-2

Dear Sir or Madam:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on USDA Docket No. 03-031-2 regarding the environmental impact statement you are in the process of developing for genetically engineered crops and organisms.

New evidence shows that contamination of non-genetically engineered (GE)crops with DNA from genetically engineered organisms is becoming an increasingly serious problem in this country. The National Research Council recently presented the USDA with a report addressing the need for biological confinement of GE organisms. Additionally, the Union of Concerned Scientists, an independent nonprofit alliance of more than 100,000 concerned citizens and scientists, just released a report demonstrating the pervasiveness of contamination in US supplies of non-GE corn, soybean and canola seeds.

It would be irresponsible for the USDA to ignore these recent findings and continue to allow outdoor plantings of GE crops, especially those engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals. If open-air plantings of these biopharm crops are allowed, contamination of the food supply is inevitable.

I am aware that the USDA is considering allowing unapproved varieties of GE organisms to enter the food supply by exempting from regulation the occurrence of low levels of these varieties. It would be negligent for the USDA to allow varieties unapproved for human consumption to enter the food supply.

I am requesting that the following four determinations be included in the Environmental Impact Statement.

--There should be no open-air plantings of biopharm crops, crops engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals.

--Biopharm crops should not be engineered into food crops.

--There should be no exemptions for the occurrence of low levels of unapproved varieties in the food supply.

--There must be regulations in place to ensure that all GE crops are appropriately monitored.

Thank you for taking these concerns into consideration.

Sincerely,

Terri Nicholson
Alan Nicholson

RECEIVED

MAR 15 2004

03/06/04

Dear Sirs:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on USDA Docket No. 03-031-2 Regarding the environmental impact statement you are in the process of developing for genetically engineered crops and organisms.

There is growing public concern on evidence of the contamination of non-GE crops with DNA from genetically engineered organisms. The National Research Council recently presented the USDA with a report showing the need for biological confinement of GE organism. In addition, the Union of Concerned Scientists just released a report demonstrating contamination in US supplies of non-GE corn, soybean and canola seeds.

The USDA has an awesome responsibility to protect the public food supply. The apparent indiscriminate use of these GE crops and its irrevocable contamination of non GE crops is of tremendous concern. I am therefore requesting that the following four determinations be included in the Environmental Impact Statement.

1. There should be no open-air plantings of biopharm crops, crops engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals.
2. Biopharm crops should not be engineered into food crops.
3. There should be no exemptions for the occurrence of low levels of unapproved varieties in the food supply.
4. There must be regulations in place to ensure that all GE crops are appropriately monitored.

Thank you for taking these concerns into consideration.

Sincerely,

Colleen Bassett
Navarro, CA

Colleen Bassett

RECEIVED

MAR 15 2004

Richard J. Seanor

March 8, 2004

Docket No. 03-031-2
Regulatory Analysis and Development
PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71
4700 River Road, Unit 118
Riverdale, MD 20737-1238

RE: Docket No. 03-031-2

Dear Sir or Madam:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on USDA Docket No. 03-031-2 regarding the environmental impact statement you are in the process of developing for genetically engineered crops and organisms.

New evidence shows that contamination of non-genetically engineered (GE) crops with DNA from genetically engineered organisms is becoming an increasingly serious problem in this country. The National Research Council recently presented the USDA with a report addressing the need for biological confinement of genetically engineered organisms. Additionally, the Union of Concerned Scientists, an independent nonprofit alliance of more than 100,000 concerned citizens and scientists, just released a report demonstrating the pervasiveness of contamination in US supplies of non-GE corn, soybean and canola seeds.

It would be irresponsible for the USDA to ignore these recent findings and continue to allow outdoor plantings of genetically engineered crops, especially those engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals. If open-air plantings of these "biopharm" crops are allowed, contamination of the food supply is inevitable.

I am aware that the USDA is considering allowing unapproved varieties of genetically engineered organisms to enter the food supply by exempting from regulation the occurrence of low levels of these varieties. It would be negligent for the USDA to allow varieties unapproved for human consumption to enter the food supply.

I am requesting that the following four determinations be included in the Environmental Impact Statement.

1. There should be no open-air plantings of "biopharm crops", crops engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals.
2. "Biopharm crops" should not be engineered into food crops.
3. There should be no exemptions for the occurrence of low levels of unapproved varieties in the food supply.
4. There must be regulations in place to ensure that all GE crops are appropriately monitored.

Thank you for taking these concerns into consideration.

Sincerely, 
Richard J. Seanor

RECEIVED

MAR 15 2004

890 North Oak Street

Ukiah, CA 95482-3904

March 17, 2004

Docket No. 03-031-2
Regulatory Analysis and Development
PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71
4700 River Road, Unit 118
Riverdale, MD 20737-1238

RE: Docket No. 03-031-2

Dear Sir or Madam:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on USDA Docket No. 03-031-2 regarding the environmental impact statement you are in the process of developing for genetically engineered crops and organisms.

New evidence shows that contamination of non-genetically engineered (GE) crops with DNA from genetically engineered organisms is becoming an increasingly serious problem in this country. The National Research Council recently presented the USDA with a report addressing the need for biological confinement of genetically engineered organisms. Additionally, the Union of Concerned Scientists, an independent nonprofit alliance of more than 100,000 concerned citizens and scientists, just released a report demonstrating the pervasiveness of contamination in US supplies of non-GE corn, soybean and canola seeds.

It would be irresponsible for the USDA to ignore these recent findings and continue to allow outdoor plantings of genetically engineered crops, especially those engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals. If open-air plantings of these "biopharm" crops are allowed, contamination of the food supply is inevitable.

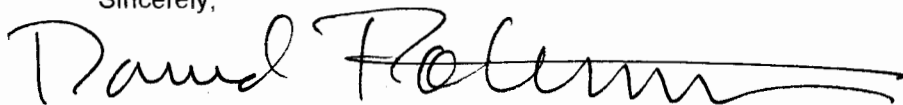
I am aware that the USDA is considering allowing unapproved varieties of genetically engineered organisms to enter the food supply by exempting from regulation the occurrence of low levels of these varieties. It would be negligent for the USDA to allow varieties unapproved for human consumption to enter the food supply.

I am requesting that the following four determinations be included in the Environmental Impact Statement.

- 1) There should be no open-air plantings of "biopharm crops", crops engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals.
- 2) "Biopharm crops" should not be engineered into food crops.
- 3) There should be no exemptions for the occurrence of low levels of unapproved varieties in the food supply.
- 4) There must be regulations in place to ensure that all GE crops are appropriately monitored.

Thank you for taking these concerns into consideration.

Sincerely,



David Rosenstein
302 Amalfi Drive
Santa Monica, CA 90402

MAR 23 2004

Docket No. 03-031-2
Regulatory Analysis and Development
PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71
4700 River Road, Unit 118
Riverdale, Md 20737 - 1238

RE: Docket No 03-031-2

Dear Sir or Madam:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on USCA Docket No 03-031-2 regarding the environmental impact statement you are in the process of developing for genetically engineered crops and organisms.

New evidence shows that contamination of non-genetically engineered (GE) crops with DNA from genetically engineered organisms is becoming an increasingly serious problem in this country. The National Research Council recently presented the USDA with a report addressing the need for biological confinement of genetically engineered organism. Additionally, the Union of Concerned Scientists an independent non profit alliance of more than 100,000 concerned citizens and scientists, just released a report demonstrating the pervasiveness of contamination in US supplies of non-GE corn, soybean, and canola seeds.

It would be IRRESPONSIBLE for the USDA to ignore these recent findings and continue to allow outdoor plantings of genetically engineered crops, especially those engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals. If open-air plantings of these "biopharm" crops are allowed, contamination of the food supply is inevitable.

I am aware that the USCA is considering allowing unapproved varieties of genetically engineered organism to enter the food supply by exempting from regulation the occurrence of low levels of these varieties. It would be NEGLIGENT for the USDA to allow varieties unapproved for human consumption to enter the food supply..

I am requesting that the following four determinations be included in the Environmental Impact Statement.

- 1) There should be no open-air plantings of "biopharm crops", crops engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals.
- 2) "Biopharm crops" should not be enginnered into food crops.
- 3) There should be no exemptions for the occurrence of low levels of unapproved varieties in the food supply.
- 4) There must be regulations in place to ensure that all GE crops are appropriately monitored.

Thank you for taking these concerns into considerations.
Sincerely,

Randy S. Rowse

3-19-2004

RECEIVED
MAR 25 2004

Docket No. 03-03 1-2
Regulatory Analysis and Development
PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71
4700 River Road, Unit 118
Riverdale, MD 207374238

RE: Docket No.03-031-2 Dear Sir or Madam:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on USDA Docket No. 03-03 1-2 regarding the environmental impact statement you are in the process of developing for genetically engineered crops and organisms.

New evidence shows that contamination of non-genetically engineered (GE) crops with DNA from genetically engineered organisms is becoming an increasingly serious problem in this country. The National Research Council recently presented the USDA with a report addressing the need for biological confinement of GE organisms. Additionally, the Union of Concerned Scientists, an independent nonprofit alliance of more than 100000 concerned citizens and scientists, just released a report demonstrating the pervasiveness of contamination in US supplies of non-GE corn, soybean and canola seeds.

It would be irresponsible for the USDA to ignore these recent findings and continue to allow outdoor plantings of GE crops, especially those engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals. If open-air plantings of these biopharm crops are allowed, contamination of the food supply is inevitable.

I am aware that the USDA is considering allowing unapproved varieties of GE organisms to enter the food supply by exempting from regulation the occurrence of low levels of these varieties. It would be negligent for the USDA to allow varieties unapproved for human consumption to enter the food supply.

I am requesting that the following four determinations be included in the Environmental Impact Statement.

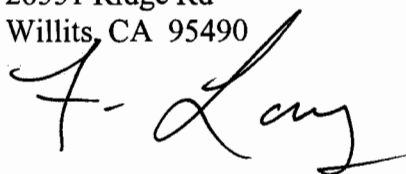
--There should be no open-air plantings of biopharm crops, crops engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals.

—Biopharm crops should not be engineered into food crops.

--There should be no exemptions for the occurrence of low levels of unapproved varieties in the food supply.

--There must be regulations in place to ensure that all GE crops are appropriately monitored. Thank you for taking these concerns into consideration.

Sincerely,
Freddie Long
26551 Ridge Rd
Willits, CA 95490



RECEIVED

MAR 25 2004

Docket No. 03-031-2
Regulatory Analysis and Development
PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71
4700 River Road, Unit 118
Riverdale, MD 20737-1238

RE: Docket No. 03-031-2

Dear Sir or Madam:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on USDA Docket No. 03-031-2 regarding the environmental impact statement you are in the process of developing for genetically engineered crops and organisms.

New evidence shows that contamination of non-genetically engineered (GE) crops with DNA from genetically engineered organisms is becoming an increasingly serious problem in this country. The National Research Council recently presented the USDA with a report addressing the need for biological confinement of GE organisms. Additionally, the Union of Concerned Scientists, an independent nonprofit alliance of more than 100,000 concerned citizens and scientists, just released a report demonstrating the pervasiveness of contamination in US supplies of non-GE corn, soybean and canola seeds.

It would be irresponsible for the USDA to ignore these recent findings and continue to allow outdoor plantings of GE crops, especially those engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals. If open-air plantings of these biopharm crops are allowed, contamination of the food supply is inevitable.

I am aware that the USDA is considering allowing unapproved varieties of GE organisms to enter the food supply by exempting from regulation the occurrence of low levels of these varieties. It would be negligent for the USDA to allow varieties unapproved for human consumption to enter the food supply.

I am requesting that the following four determinations be included in the Environmental Impact Statement.

--There should be no open-air plantings of biopharm crops, crops engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals.

--Biopharm crops should not be engineered into food crops.

--There should be no exemptions for the occurrence of low levels of unapproved varieties in the food supply.

--There must be regulations in place to ensure that all GE crops are appropriately monitored.

Thank you for taking these concerns into consideration.

Sincerely,

MAR 23 2004

Thurston Williams
Genetic contamination is forever!



Regulatory Analysis and Development
PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71
4700 River Road Unit 118
Riverdale, MD 20727

March 8, 2004

Dear Sir or Madam:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on USDA Docket No. 03-031-2 regarding the environmental impact statement you are in the process of developing for genetically engineered crops and organisms.

New evidence shows that contamination of non-genetically engineered (GE) crops with DNA from genetically engineered organisms is becoming an increasingly serious problem in this country. The National Research Council recently presented the USDA with a report addressing the need for biological confinement of genetically engineered organisms. Additionally, the Union of Concerned Scientists, an independent nonprofit alliance of more than 100,000 concerned citizens and scientists, just released a report demonstrating the pervasiveness of contamination in US supplies of non-GE corn, soybean and canola seeds.

It would be irresponsible for the USDA to ignore these recent findings and continue to allow outdoor plantings of genetically engineered crops, especially those engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals. If open-air plantings of these "biopharm" crops are allowed, contamination of the food supply is inevitable.

I am aware that the USDA is considering allowing unapproved varieties of genetically engineered organisms to enter the food supply by exempting from regulation the occurrence of low levels of these varieties. It would be negligent for the USDA to allow varieties unapproved for human consumption to enter the food supply.

I am requesting that the following four determinations be included in The Environmental Impact Statement.

- 1) There should be no open-air plantings of "biopharm crops", crops engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals.
- 2) "Biopharm crops" should not be engineered into food crops.
- 3) There should be no exemptions for the occurrence of low levels of unapproved varieties in the food supply.
- 4) There must be regulations in place to ensure that all GE crops are appropriately monitored.

Thank you for taking these concerns into consideration.

Sincerely,

Norman P. Chiodras MS, CFP, RFC
President

RECEIVED

MAR 15 2004

2001 Midwest Road, Suite 107 ■ Oak Brook, IL 60523 ■ FAX 630.495.9720 ■ PHONE 630.495.9700

1.877.RETIRES
(738.4737)

INVESTMENTS THROUGH MACK INVESTMENT SECURITIES, INC., ■ 1939 WAUKEGAN ROAD, GLENVIEW, IL 60025
847.657.6600 ■ MEMBER N.A.S.D., S.I.P.C.

Docket No. 03-031-2
 Regulatory Analysis and Development
 PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71
 4700 River Road, Unit 118
 Riverdale, MD 20737-1238

RE: Docket No. 03-031-2

Dear Sir or Madam:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on USDA Docket No. 03-031-2 regarding the environmental impact statement you are in the process of developing for genetically engineered crops and organisms.

New evidence shows that contamination of non-genetically engineered (GE) crops with DNA from genetically engineered organisms is becoming an increasingly serious problem in this country. The National Research Council recently presented the USDA with a report addressing the need for biological confinement of GE organisms. Additionally, the Union of Concerned Scientists, an independent nonprofit alliance of more than 100,000 concerned citizens and scientists, just released a report demonstrating the pervasiveness of contamination in US supplies of non-GE corn, soybean and canola seeds.

It would be irresponsible for the USDA to ignore these recent findings and continue to allow outdoor plantings of GE crops, especially those engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals. If open-air plantings of these biopharm crops are allowed, contamination of the food supply is inevitable.

I am aware that the USDA is considering allowing unapproved varieties of GE organisms to enter the food supply by exempting from regulation the occurrence of low levels of these varieties. It would be negligent for the USDA to allow varieties unapproved for human consumption to enter the food supply.

I am requesting that the following four determinations be included in the Environmental Impact Statement.

--There should be no open-air plantings of biopharm crops, crops engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals.

--Biopharm crops should not be engineered into food crops.

--There should be no exemptions for the occurrence of low levels of unapproved varieties in the food supply.

--There must be regulations in place to ensure that all GE crops are appropriately monitored.

Thank you for taking these concerns into consideration.

Sincerely,

(include full name and address)

SHERI HOWE
 4655 BEAR CANYON RD.
 WILLITS, CA. 95490

* We need to think
 beyond our
 immediate
 greed and
 consider our
 children's children.

RECEIVED

MAR 25 2004

Docket No. 03-031-2
Regulatory Analysis and Development
PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71
4700 River Road, Unit 118
Riverdale, MD 20737-1238

RE: Docket No. 03-031-2

Dear Sir or Madam:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on USDA Docket No. 03-031-2 regarding the environmental impact statement you are in the process of developing for genetically engineered crops and organisms.

New evidence shows that contamination of non-genetically engineered (GE) crops with DNA from genetically engineered organisms is becoming an increasingly serious problem in this country. The National Research Council recently presented the USDA with a report addressing the need for biological confinement of GE organisms. Additionally, the Union of Concerned Scientists, an independent nonprofit alliance of more than 100,000 concerned citizens and scientists, just released a report demonstrating the pervasiveness of contamination in US supplies of non-GE corn, soybean and canola seeds.

It would be irresponsible for the USDA to ignore these recent findings and continue to allow outdoor plantings of GE crops, especially those engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals. If open-air plantings of these biopharm crops are allowed, contamination of the food supply is inevitable.

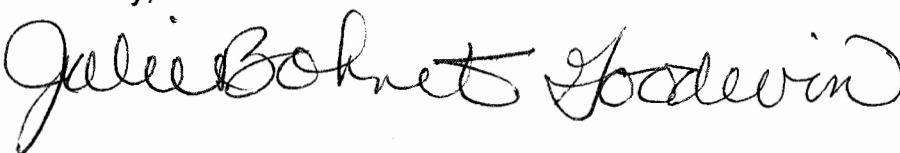
I am aware that the USDA is considering allowing unapproved varieties of GE organisms to enter the food supply by exempting from regulation the occurrence of low levels of these varieties. It would be negligent for the USDA to allow varieties unapproved for human consumption to enter the food supply.

I am requesting that the following four determinations be included in the Environmental Impact Statement.

- There should be no open-air plantings of biopharm crops, crops engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals.
- Biopharm crops should not be engineered into food crops.
- There should be no exemptions for the occurrence of low levels of unapproved varieties in the food supply.
- There must be regulations in place to ensure that all GE crops are appropriately monitored.

Thank you for taking these concerns into consideration.

Sincerely,



RECEIVED

APR 19 2004

March 17, 2004

Regulatory Analysis and Development
PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71
4700 River Road, Unit 118
Riverdale, MD 20737-1238

#480
StarLink

Re: Docket #03-031-2

I am very concerned about the EIS scope and standards you are developing for genetically-engineered crops. Contamination by GE crops is an increasing problem, with inadequate monitoring and controls and unknown long-term impacts on health and the environment.

For just one example, the unintentional mixing of StarLink GE corn into human food several years ago caused hundreds of severe allergic reactions. Allergies to soy have also risen dramatically since GE soy has been widely introduced into our food supply, without testing or controls. If GE crops contain novel proteins that are not thoroughly tested, or pharmaceutical or industrial chemicals, even very small amounts of these could cause serious health impacts if mixed into our food.

There should be a moratorium on planting of all GE crops until an EIS is completed, which should include comprehensive, independent long-term tests of both health and environmental impacts.

In addition, specifically:

- There should be no open-air plantings of crops engineered to produce pharmaceuticals and industrial chemicals.
- There should be no tolerance for unapproved varieties getting into our food supply.
- All GE crops should be monitored, with the burden of avoiding contamination (and liability for any such contamination) borne by the farmers and/or patent holders of GE crops.

Finally, it would be unconscionable to allow commercial production of GE wheat or rice, or other new GE crops, until a thorough EIS is completed.

Sincerely,

RECEIVED

MAR 25 2004

March 17, 2004

Regulatory Analysis and Development
PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71
4700 River Road, Unit 118
Riverdale, MD 20737-1238

Josephine Silva
3 Troll Ridge Rd
Willits, CA 95490

Re: Docket #03-031-2

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Finally, it would be unconscionable to allow commercial production of GE wheat or rice, or other new GE crops, until a thorough EIS is completed.

Sincerely,

Josephine Silva

RECEIVED

MAR 25 2004

03-031-2

Thomas M. DeMarchi
1851 Crawford Dr.
Willits CA 95490

March ²⁴~~17~~, 2004

Regulatory Analysis and Development
PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71
4700 River Road, Unit 118
Riverdale, MD 20737-1238

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Finally, it would be unconscionable to allow commercial production of GE wheat or rice, or other new GE crops, until a thorough EIS is completed.

Sincerely,

Thomas M. DeMarchi

MAR 29 2004

Docket No. 03-031-2
Regulatory Analysis and Development
PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71
4700 River Road, Unit 118
Riverdale, MD 20737-1238

Dear Sir or Madam:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on USDA Docket No. 03-031-2 regarding the environmental impact statement you are in the process of developing for genetically engineered crops and organisms.

New evidence shows that contamination of non-genetically engineered (GE) crops with DNA from genetically engineered organisms is becoming an increasingly serious problem in this country. The National Research Council recently presented the USDA with a report addressing the need for biological confinement of GE organisms. Additionally, the Union of Concerned Scientists, an independent nonprofit alliance of more than 100,000 concerned scientists and citizens, just released a report demonstrating the pervasiveness of contamination in US supplies of non-GE corn, soybean and canola seeds.

It would be irresponsible for the USDA to ignore these recent findings and continue to allow outdoor plantings of GE crops, especially those engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals. If open-air plantings of these biopharm crops are allowed, contamination of the food supply is inevitable.


I am very concerned that the USDA is considering allowing unapproved varieties of GE organisms to enter the food supply by exempting from regulation the occurrence of low levels of these varieties. It would be negligent for the USDA to allow varieties unapproved for human consumption to enter the food supply.

I am requesting that the following determinations be included in the Environmental Impact Statement:

- There should be no open-air plantings of biopharm crops, crops engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals.
- Biopharm crops should not be engineered into food crops.
- There should be no exemptions for the occurrence of low levels of unapproved varieties in the food supply.
- There must be regulations in place to ensure that all GE crops are appropriately monitored, with the burden of avoiding contamination, and liability for any such contamination, borne by the farmers and/or patent holders of GE crops.
- Commercial production of GE wheat or rice, or any other new GE crop should not be allowed until a thorough EIS is completed.
- There should be a moratorium on the planting of all GE crops until an EIS is completed, including independent, comprehensive and long-term tests of both health and environmental impacts.

Thank you for taking these concerns into consideration.

Sincerely,


Jacqueline M. Lee
1050 Bel Arbres Road
Redwood Valley, CA 95470
707-485-5226

MAR 23 2004

To Whom it May Concern;

The USDA should NOT allow the presence of transgenic DNA in conventional varieties of seed.

I want my organic food to be just that - organic.

Sincerely

Mary Cline

4811 N. Central Expressway
Dallas, TX 75205

MAY 25 2004

03-031-2

Hildegarde Hannum
P. O. Box 190
Old Lyme, CT 06371

May 20, 2004

Docket No. 03-031-2
Regulatory Analysis and Development
PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71
4700 River Road
Unit 118
Riverdale, MD 20737-1238

Re: transgenic DNA in conventional varieties of seed

It is appalling that the USDA may allow the presence of transgenic DNA in conventional varieties of seed,

There is growing evidence of the dangers of genetically engineered foods, and it wrong to allow the contamination of our foods to continue.

As citizens, we should have the right to food that is GE-free.

I eat organic foods whenever I can. But more than half of conventional food tested has traces of DNA from GE crops. How can I be sure that the food labeled organic really is so?

I urge that federal rules be tightened to prevent GE contamination of our food.

Sincerely,

Hildegarde Hannum

MAY 25 2004

03-031-2

Mardell Weisenburger

From: Mardell Weisenburger [prairiehome@iw.net]
Sent: Friday, April 09, 2004 8:48 AM
To: 'regulations@aphis.usda.gov'
Subject: "Docket No. 03-031-2"

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am responding to your request for comments on your approach to regulating genetically engineered crops and organisms. Thank you for this opportunity.

The latest findings tell us that contamination of non-genetically engineered (GE) crops with DNA from genetically engineered organisms is becoming an increasingly serious problem in this country. The National Research Council recently presented the USDA with a report addressing the need for biological confinement of genetically engineered organisms. Also, the Union of Concerned Scientists, an independent nonprofit alliance of more than 100,000 CONCERNED CITIZENS AND SCIENTISTS, just released a report showing us the thoroughness of contamination in US supplies of non-GE corn, soybean and canola seeds. This is of great concern to me, as my children and myself have serious intolerances to corn. What will this do to us? What will this do to many people with other allergies, intolerances, etc? How will we know just exactly what we are eating?


I feel it would be terribly irresponsible for the USDA to ignore these recent findings and continue to allow outdoor planting of genetically engineered crops, especially those engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals. If open-air planting of these "biopharm" crops are allowed, contamination of the food supply is inevitable.

I know that the USDA is considering allowing unapproved varieties of genetically engineered organisms to enter the food supply by exempting from regulation the occurrence of low levels of these varieties. It would be negligent for the USDA to allow varieties unapproved for human consumption to enter the food supply. Please do not allow this to happen.

I respectfully request the following be included in the Environmental Impact Statement:

1. No open-air planting of "biopharm crops", crops engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals.
2. "Biopharm Crops" should not be engineered into food crops.
3. There should be no exemptions for the occurrence of low levels of unapproved varieties in the food supply.
4. There must be regulations in place to ensure that all GE crops are appropriately monitored.
5. Include biotech crops in the definition of "noxious weeds."

Thank you for your consideration of my concerns and requests.

Sincerely,

Mardell Weisenburger
209 S. 4th St.
Aberdeen, SD 57401

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APR 13 2004

4/9/2004

125 North Drexel Street
Woodbury, NJ 08096
March 19, 2004

Docket No. 03-031-2
Regulatory Analysis and Development
PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71
4700 River Road, Unit 118
Riverdale, MD 20737-1238

RE: Docket No. 03-031-2

Dear Sir or Madam:

Please consider this my official comment on USDA Docket No. 03-031-2.
I am extremely concerned about genetically engineered crops and organisms.

New evidence shows that contamination of non-genetically engineered (GE) crops with DNA from genetically engineered organisms is becoming an increasingly serious problem in this country. The National Research Council recently presented the USDA with a report addressing the need for biological confinement of genetically engineered organisms. Additionally, the Union of Concerned Scientists, an independent nonprofit alliance of more than 100,000 concerned citizens and scientists, just released a report demonstrating the pervasiveness of contamination in US supplies of non-GE corn, soybean and canola seeds.

It would be highly irresponsible for the USDA to ignore these recent findings and continue to allow outdoor plantings of genetically engineered crops, especially those engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals. If open-air plantings of these "biopharm" crops are allowed, contamination of the food supply is inevitable.

I am aware that the USDA is considering allowing unapproved varieties of genetically engineered organisms to enter the food supply by exempting from regulation the occurrence of low levels of these varieties. It would be negligent for the USDA to allow varieties unapproved for human consumption to enter the food supply.

I am requesting that the following determinations be included in the Environmental Impact Statement:

New regulations must include a comprehensive assessment of the economic impacts GE crops have had on family farmers and rural communities, and a socioeconomic assessment for all new GE crop and food varieties.

RECEIVED

MAR 25 2004

There should be no open-air plantings of any GE crops, including "biopharm crops," at University research facilities that grow foundation and public seed stock varieties. If testing is allowed it must be conducted in closed, fully contained experimental facilities with a strict zero-tolerance for contamination attached. Financial responsibility bonds should be made mandatory to cover the cost of liability due to contamination.

Plant and animal species used for food or feed should not be used to produce pharmaceuticals or industrial chemicals;

There should be no exemptions for the occurrence of low levels of DNA from unapproved GE varieties in the food supply;

No additional organisms should be allowed to be genetically engineered into crops unless there is proof that the genetically engineered DNA will not migrate into other living organisms and the environment.

The role of the USDA is to insure that the food supply of U.S. citizens is safe. Please continue to do that and act responsibly regarding genetically engineered crops.

Thank you for taking these concerns into consideration.

Sincerely,



Loretta Dunne

March 22, 2004

Docket No. 03-031-2
Regulatory Analysis and Development
PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71
4700 River Road, Unit 118
Riverdale, MD 20737-1238

RE: Docket No. 03-031-2

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on USDA Docket No. 03-031-2 regarding the environmental impact statement you are in the process of developing for genetically engineered crops and organisms.

New evidence show that contamination of non-genetically engineered (GE) crops with the DNA from genetically engineered organisms is becoming an increasingly serious problem in this country. The National Research Council recently presented the USDA with a report addressing the need for biological confinement of genetically engineered organisms. Additionally, the Union of Concerned Scientists, an independent nonprofit alliance of more than 100,00 concerned citizens and scientists, just released a report demonstrating the persuasiveness of contamination in US supplies of non-GE corn, soybean, and canola seeds.

It would be irresponsible for the USDA to ignore these recent findings and continue to allow outdoor plantings of genetically engineered crops, especially those engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals. If open-air plantings of these "biopharm" crops are allowed, contamination of the food supply is inevitable.

I am aware that the USDA is considering allowing unapproved varieties of genetically engineered organisms to enter the food supply by exempting from regulation the occurrence of low levels of these varieties. It would be negligent for the USDA to allow varieties unapproved for human consumption to enter the food supply.

MAR 29 2004

I am requesting that the following four determinations be included in the Environmental Impact Statement.

- 1) There should be no open-air plantings of "biopharm crops", crops engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals.
- 2) "Biopharm crops" should not be engineered into food crops.
- 3) There should be no exemptions for the occurrence of low levels of unapproved varieties in the food supply.
- 4) There must be regulations in place to ensure that all GE crops are appropriately monitored.

Thank you for taking these concerns into consideration.

Sincerely;



Larry Heitkamp
7736 118th Avenue SE
Verona, North Dakota 58490-9229

March 22, 2004

Roberto Montoya
609 San Miguel St.
Deming, NM 88030

Docket No. 03-031-2
Regulatory Analysis and Development
PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71
4700 River Road, Unit 118
Riverdale, MD 20737-1238

Dear United States Department of Agriculture,

These comments are about Docket No. 03-031-2 regarding the Environmental Impact Statement for genetically engineered crops and organisms.

The USDA has not done enough to safeguard the environment from the potential damage that could be caused by genetically engineered crops. Moreover, the USDA is engaged in policies that are benefiting the biotech industry but hurting the organic industry.

Evidence shows that organic corn is becoming contaminated by the cross-pollination from genetically engineered corn. Further, by allowing the growth of so many acres of crops that contain the Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*) toxin, insects are beginning to build up resistance to the Bt toxin due to overexposure. As a result, the effectiveness of Bt, when used as a spray in organic agriculture, is undermined.

In addition, recent research shows that a lot of "horizontal gene transfer" is taking place in ways that many genetic researchers earlier thought was impossible. And biologists have been shocked to discover plant species with differing numbers of chromosomes are hybridizing. Gene transfer has been shown to occur in open fields of canola, resulting in the creation of "superweeds" that have become herbicide-resistant.

Far more is still unknown about the science of genetic engineering than is known. For example, just a few years ago scientists decided to map the human genome and determine the genes that make up a human. They expected to find more than 100,000 genes. But scientists were shocked to discover that humans are made out of only about 30,000 genes. Scientists determined that a lot of "alternative splicing" is taking place.

With the recent discoveries of alternative splicing and horizontal gene transfer in human and plant genetics, it would be irresponsible for the USDA to allow ANY crops that contain pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals to be grown outdoors. Even if the drugs and chemicals are genetically engineered into non-food crops, it is still impossible to assure that the genes will not eventually get into the food supply.

I am requesting three specific determinations be included in the Environmental Impact Statement:

MAR 29 2004

1) Since corn pollen can travel for miles, genetically engineered corn should no longer be allowed to be grown outdoors. Genetically engineered corn is contaminating organic corn, with the potential of causing long-term damage to the organic corn industry.

2) Since it is inevitable that insects will become resistant to the spray form of Bt if BT is overused in genetically engineered crops, no more genetically engineered Bt crops of any variety should be allowed to be grown outdoors.

3) Since horizontal gene transfer and alternative splicing have shown that genes like to move around much more than was previously expected, no crops containing pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals should be allowed to be grown outdoors. Crops genetically engineered to contain pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals should be restricted to greenhouses or other controlled indoor environments. In addition, crops such as genetically engineered wheat or genetically engineered rice should not be allowed to grow outdoors.

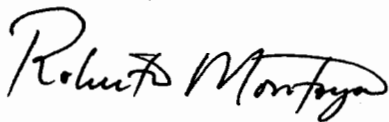
While I am pleased that the USDA is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement, I am disappointed that it was not done many years ago. The fact that the Environmental Impact Statement is being prepared now is an indication of the lack of previous due diligence by the USDA in regulating these potentially dangerous plants.

The organic agriculture industry must be protected from contamination and damage from genetically engineered crops. By placing a ban on the outdoor growing of all biotech corn, soy, wheat and rice, and all crops genetically engineered to contain the Bt toxin, the USDA will show it is serious about properly regulating these controversial crops.

Any ruling by the USDA that allows crops genetically engineered to contain pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals to be grown outdoors would be reckless and irresponsible.

Further, more research must be done in all cases before allowing new genetically engineered plants and animals to be rushed to markets. The burden of proof should be on the biotech companies to prove each and every genetically engineered product is safe and labeled before being introduced into the environment and the marketplace.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roberto Montoya". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "R".

03-031-2

Docket No. 03-031-2
Regulatory Analysis and Development
PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71
4700 River Road, Unit 118
Riverdale, MD 20737-1238

RE: Docket No. 03-031-2

Dear Sir or Madam:

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New evidence shows that contamination of non-genetically engineered (GE) crops with DNA from genetically engineered organisms is becoming an increasingly serious problem in this country. The National Research Council recently presented the USDA with a report addressing the need for biological confinement of GE organisms. Additionally, the Union of Concerned Scientists, an independent nonprofit alliance of more than 100,000 concerned citizens and scientists, just released a report demonstrating the pervasiveness of contamination in US supplies of non-GE corn, soybean and canola seeds.

It would be irresponsible for the USDA to ignore these recent findings and continue to allow outdoor plantings of GE crops, especially those engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals. If open-air plantings of these biopharm crops are allowed, contamination of the food supply is inevitable.

I am aware that the USDA is considering allowing unapproved varieties of GE organisms to enter the food supply by exempting from regulation the occurrence of low levels of these varieties. It would be negligent for the USDA to allow varieties unapproved for human consumption to enter the food supply.

I am requesting that the following four determinations be included in the Environmental Impact Statement.

- ~~*~~ There should be no open-air plantings of biopharm crops, crops engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals.
- ~~*~~ Biopharm crops should not be engineered into food crops.
- ~~*~~ There should be no exemptions for the occurrence of low levels of unapproved varieties in the food supply.
- ~~*~~ There must be regulations in place to ensure that all GE crops are appropriately monitored.

Thank you for taking these concerns into consideration.

MAR 23 2004

Sincerely,

(include full name and address)

Personal Statement
on Back.

Michelle Gold Cedar
75 N. Main St #37
Riverdale, MD 20737-1238

Dear Sir or Madam,

Please Ban the outdoor use of all
GE modified seed, plant, sprout ect...

Please create strong laws w/out
loop holes, because accidents happen.
sorry for this hole! It is too dangerous to risk
our food supply. The decisions made
now are affecting the health of
generations to come.

Protect the future, the food, the
farmers. Thank you

Sincerely,

Michelle Gofeder

February 27, 2004

Dear USDA,

These comments are about Docket No. 03-031-2 regarding the Environmental Impact Statement for genetically engineered crops and organisms.

The USDA has not done enough to safeguard the environment from the potential damage that could be caused by genetically engineered crops. Moreover, the USDA is engaged in policies that are benefiting the biotech industry but hurting the organic industry.

Evidence shows that organic corn is becoming thought was impossible. And biologists have been contaminated by the cross-pollination from genetically engineered corn. Further, by allowing the growth of so many acres of crops that contain the Bt (*bacillus thuringiensis*) toxin, insects are beginning to build up resistance to the Bt toxin due to overexposure. As a result, the effectiveness of Bt, when used as a spray in organic agriculture, is undermined.

In addition, recent research shows that a lot of "horizontal gene transfer" is taking place in ways that many genetic researchers earlier thought was impossible. And biologists have been shocked to discover plant species with differing numbers of chromosomes are hybridizing. Gene transfer has been shown to occur in open fields of canola, resulting in the creation of "superweeds" that have become herbicide-resistant.

Far more is still unknown about the science of genetic engineering than is known. For example, just a few years ago scientists decided to map the human genome and determine the genes that make up a human. They expected to find more than 100,000 genes. But scientists were shocked to discover that humans are made out of only about 30,000 genes. Scientists determined that a lot of "alternative splicing" is taking place.

With the recent discoveries of alternative splicing and horizontal gene transfer in human and plant genetics, it would be irresponsible for the USDA to allow ANY crops that contain pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals to be grown outdoors. Even if the drugs and chemicals are genetically engineered into non-food crops, it is still impossible to assure that the genes will not eventually get into the food supply.

I am requesting three specific determinations be included in the Environmental Impact Statement:

- 1) Since corn pollen can travel for miles, genetically engineered corn should no longer be allowed to be grown outdoors. Genetically engineered corn is contaminating organic corn, with the potential of causing long-term damage to the organic corn industry.
- 2) Since it is inevitable that insects will become resistant to the spray form of Bt if BT is overused in genetically engineered crops, no more genetically engineered Bt crops of any variety should be allowed to be grown outdoors.

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MAR 09 2004

3) Since horizontal gene transfer and alternative splicing have shown that genes like to move around much more than was previously expected, no crops containing pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals should be allowed to be grown outdoors. Crops genetically engineered to contain pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals should be restricted to greenhouses or other controlled indoor environments. In addition, crops such as genetically engineered wheat or genetically engineered rice should not be allowed to grow outdoors.

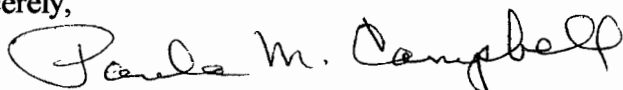
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The organic agriculture industry must be protected from contamination and damage from genetically engineered crops. By placing a ban on the outdoor growing of all biotech corn, soy, wheat and rice, and all crops genetically engineered to contain the Bt toxin, the USDA will show it is serious about properly regulating these controversial crops.

Any ruling by the USDA that allows crops genetically engineered to contain pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals to be grown outdoors would be reckless and irresponsible.

Further, more research must be done in all cases before allowing new genetically engineered plants and animals to be rushed to markets. The burden of proof should be on the biotech companies to prove each and every genetically engineered product is safe and labeled before being introduced into the environment and the marketplace.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Paula M. Campbell in cursive script.

February 27, 2004

Dear USDA,

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Far more is still unknown about the science of genetic engineering than is known. For example, just a few years ago scientists decided to map the human genome and determine the genes that make up a human. They expected to find more than 100,000 genes. But scientists were shocked to discover that humans are made out of only about 30,000 genes. Scientists determined that a lot of "alternative splicing" is taking place.

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MAR 02 2004

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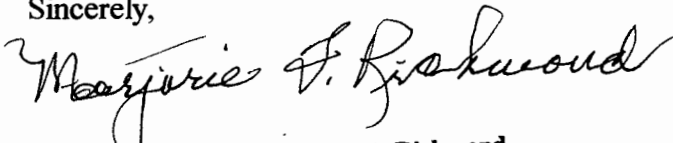
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Further, more research must be done in all cases before allowing new genetically engineered plants and animals to be rushed to markets. The burden of proof should be on the biotech companies to prove each and every genetically engineered product is safe and labeled before being introduced into the environment and the marketplace.

Sincerely,



Mrs. Marjorie F. Richmond
3362 Buckland Sq. Apt. 121
Owensboro, KY 42301

Docket No. 03-031-2
Regulatory Analysis and Development,
PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71
4700 River Road, Unit 118
Riverdale, MD 20737-1238.

February 25, 2004

Dear USDA,

These comments are about Docket No. 03-031-2 regarding the Environmental Impact Statement for genetically engineered crops and organisms.

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With the recent discoveries of alternative splicing and horizontal gene transfer in human and plant genetics, it would be irresponsible for the USDA to allow ANY crops that contain pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals to be grown outdoors. Even if the drugs and chemicals are genetically engineered into non-food crops, it is still impossible to assure that the genes will not eventually get into the food supply.

I am requesting three specific determinations be included in the Environmental Impact Statement:

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- 3) Since horizontal gene transfer and alternative splicing have shown that genes like to

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MAR 02 2004

move around much more than was previously expected, no crops containing pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals should be allowed to be grown outdoors. Crops genetically engineered to contain pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals should be restricted to greenhouses or other controlled indoor environments. In addition, crops such as genetically engineered wheat or genetically engineered rice should not be allowed to grow outdoors.

While I am pleased that the USDA is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement, I am disappointed that it was not done many years ago. The fact that the Environmental Impact Statement is being prepared now is an indication of the lack of previous due diligence by the USDA in regulating these potentially dangerous plants.

The organic agriculture industry must be protected from contamination and damage from genetically engineered crops. By placing a ban on the outdoor growing of all biotech corn, soy, wheat and rice, and all crops genetically engineered to contain the Bt toxin, the USDA will show it is serious about properly regulating these controversial crops.

Any ruling by the USDA that allows crops genetically engineered to contain pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals to be grown outdoors would be reckless and irresponsible.

Further, more research must be done in all cases before allowing new genetically engineered plants and animals to be rushed to markets. The burden of proof should be on the biotech companies to prove each and every genetically engineered product is safe and labeled before being introduced into the environment and the marketplace.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary R. Currier". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and address.

Mary Currier
P.O. Box 848
Jerome, AZ 86331

928-634-8963

mchealthy - PRACTICAL NUTRITION for Healthy Living

March 18, 2004

Docket No. 03-031-2
Regulatory Analysis and Development,
PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71
4700 River Road, Unit 118
Riverdale, MD 20737-1238.

Dear USDA:

These comments are about Docket No. 03-031-2 regarding the Environmental Impact Statement for genetically engineered crops and organisms. The USDA has not done enough to safeguard the environment from the potential damage that could be caused by genetically engineered crops. Moreover, the USDA is engaged in policies that are benefiting the biotech industry but hurting the organic industry.

Evidence shows that organic corn is becoming contaminated by the cross-pollination from genetically engineered corn. Further, by allowing the growth of so many acres of crops that contain the Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*) toxin, insects are beginning to build up resistance to the Bt toxin due to overexposure. As a result, the effectiveness of Bt, when used as a spray in organic agriculture, is undermined.

In addition, recent research shows that a lot of "horizontal gene transfer" is taking place in ways that many genetic researchers earlier thought was impossible. And biologists have been shocked to discover plant species with differing numbers of chromosomes are hybridizing. Gene transfer has been shown to occur in open fields of canola, resulting in the creation of "superweeds" that have become herbicide-resistant.

If our hard working American farmers have to deal with forced take-overs by large corporations, due to what appears to be calculated contamination of their neighboring organic fields by the corporate biotech fields, we have a great problem. With wind, weather and insects transferring pollen from bio or genetically engineered fields, the future of not only our food is endangered, but the life, livelihood and individual freedom upon which our country was founded is doomed.

Far more is still unknown about the science of genetic engineering than is known. For example, just a few years ago scientists decided to map the human genome and determine the genes that make up a human. They expected to find more than 100,000 genes. But scientists were shocked to discover that humans are made out of only about 30,000 genes. Scientists determined that a lot of "alternative splicing" is taking place.

With the recent discoveries of alternative splicing and horizontal gene transfer in human and plant genetics, it would be irresponsible for the USDA to allow ANY crops that contain pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals to be grown outdoors. Even if the drugs and chemicals are genetically engineered into non-food crops, it is still impossible to assure that the genes will not eventually get into the food supply.

RECEIVED

MAR 22 2004

I am requesting three specific determinations be included in the Environmental Impact Statement:

1) Since corn pollen can travel for miles, genetically engineered corn should no longer be allowed to be grown outdoors. Genetically engineered corn is contaminating organic corn, with the potential of causing long-term damage to the organic corn industry.

2) Since it is inevitable that insects will become resistant to the spray form of Bt if Bt is overused in genetically engineered crops, no more genetically engineered Bt crops of any variety should be allowed to be grown outdoors.

3) Since horizontal gene transfer and alternative splicing have shown that genes like to move around much more than was previously expected, no crops containing pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals should be allowed to be grown outdoors. Crops genetically engineered to contain pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals should be restricted to greenhouses or other controlled indoor environments. In addition, crops such as genetically engineered wheat or genetically engineered rice should not be allowed to grow outdoors.

While I am pleased that the USDA is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement, I am disappointed that it was not done many years ago. The fact that the Environmental Impact Statement is being prepared now is an indication of the lack of previous due diligence by the USDA in regulating these potentially dangerous plants.

The organic agriculture industry must be protected from contamination and damage from genetically engineered crops. By placing a ban on the outdoor growing of all biotech corn, soy, wheat and rice, and all crops genetically engineered to contain the Bt toxin, the USDA will show it is serious about properly regulating these controversial crops.

Any ruling by the USDA that allows crops genetically engineered to contain pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals to be grown outdoors would be reckless and irresponsible.

Further, more research must be done in all cases before allowing new genetically engineered plants and animals to be rushed to markets. The burden of proof should be on the biotech companies to prove each and every genetically engineered product is safe and labeled before being introduced into the environment and the marketplace.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Ricki L. McKenna'.

Ricki L. McKenna, C.N.

Ricki L. McKenna, C.N. P.O. Box 4175, Basalt, CO 81621
Phone/Fax 970-927-1373, email: rmchealthy@hotmail.com Ricki

Friday, March 19, 2004

Docket No. 03-031-2
Regulatory Analysis and Development
PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71
4700 River Road, Unit 118
Riverdale, MD 20737-1238
RE: Docket No. 03-031-2
Dear Sir or Madam:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on USDA Docket No. 03-031-2 regarding the environmental impact statement you are in the process of developing for genetically engineered crops and organisms.

New evidence shows that contamination of non-genetically engineered (GE) crops with DNA from genetically engineered organisms is becoming an increasingly serious problem in this country. The National Research Council recently presented the USDA with a report addressing the need for biological confinement of genetically engineered organisms. Additionally, the Union of Concerned Scientists, an independent nonprofit alliance of more than 100,000 concerned citizens and scientists, just released a report demonstrating the pervasiveness of contamination in US supplies of non-GE corn, soybean and canola seeds. It would be highly irresponsible for the USDA to ignore these recent findings and continue to allow outdoor plantings of genetically engineered crops, especially those engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals. If open-air plantings of these "biopharm" crops are allowed, contamination of the food supply is inevitable.

I am aware that the USDA is considering allowing unapproved varieties of genetically engineered organisms to enter the food supply by exempting from regulation the occurrence of low levels of these varieties. It would be negligent for the USDA to allow

MAR 23 2004

varieties unapproved for human consumption to enter the food supply.

I am requesting that the following determinations be included in the Environmental Impact Statement:

- New regulations must include a comprehensive assessment of the economic impacts GE crops have had on family farmers and rural communities, and a socioeconomic assessment for all new GE crop and food varieties.
- There should be no open-air plantings of any GE crops, including "biopharm crops," at University research facilities that grow foundation and public seed stock varieties. If testing is allowed it must be conducted in closed, fully contained experimental facilities with a strict zero-tolerance for contamination attached. Financial responsibility bonds should be made mandatory to cover the cost of liability due to contamination.
- Plant and animal species used for food or feed should not be used to produce pharmaceuticals or industrial chemicals;
- There should be no exemptions for the occurrence of low levels of DNA from unapproved GE varieties in the food supply;
- No additional organisms should be allowed to be genetically engineered into crops unless there is proof that the genetically engineered DNA will not migrate into other living organisms and the environment.

Thank you for taking these concerns into consideration.

Sincerely,

James T. Armstrong

P.O. Box 700

Taylor, AZ 85939

928-536-2207

jtarm314@skyboot.com

March 18, 2004

Docket No. 03-031-2
Regulatory Analysis and Development
PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71
4700 River Road, Unit 118
Riverdale, MD 20737-1238

RE: Docket No. 03-031-2

Dear Sir or Madam:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on USDA Docket No. 03-031-2 regarding the environmental impact statement you are in the process of developing for genetically engineered crops and organisms.

New evidence shows that contamination of non-genetically engineered (GE) crops with DNA from genetically engineered organisms is becoming an increasingly serious problem in this country. The National Research Council recently presented the USDA with a report addressing the need for biological confinement of genetically engineered organisms. Additionally, the Union of Concerned Scientists, an independent nonprofit alliance of more than 100,000 concerned citizens and scientists, just released a report demonstrating the pervasiveness of contamination in US supplies of non-GE corn, soybean and canola seeds.

It would be highly irresponsible for the USDA to ignore these recent findings and continue to allow outdoor plantings of genetically engineered crops, especially those engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals. If open-air plantings of these "biopharm" crops are allowed, contamination of the food supply is inevitable.

I am aware that the USDA is considering allowing unapproved varieties of genetically engineered organisms to enter the food supply by exempting from regulation the occurrence of low levels of these varieties. It would be negligent for the USDA to allow varieties unapproved for human consumption to enter the food supply.

I am requesting that the following determinations be included in the Environmental Impact Statement:

- New regulations must include a comprehensive assessment of the economic impacts GE crops have had on family farmers and rural communities, and a socioeconomic assessment for all new GE crop and food varieties.
- There should be no open-air plantings of any GE crops, including "biopharm crops," at University research facilities that grow foundation and public seed stock varieties. If testing is allowed it must be conducted in closed, fully contained experimental facilities with a strict zero-tolerance for contamination attached. Financial responsibility bonds should be made mandatory to cover the cost of liability due to contamination.

MAR 23 2004

- Plant and animal species used for food or feed should not be used to produce pharmaceuticals or industrial chemicals;
- There should be no exemptions for the occurrence of low levels of DNA from unapproved GE varieties in the food supply;
- No additional organisms should be allowed to be genetically engineered into crops unless there is proof that the genetically engineered DNA will not migrate into other living organisms and the environment.

Thank you for taking these concerns into consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "MALLIE B. SMITH", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mallie B. Smith
2613 Cherokee Road
Birmingham, Alabama 35216

Docket No. 03-031-2
Regulatory Analysis and Development
PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71
4700 River Road, Unit 118
Riverdale, MD 20737-1238

RE: Docket No. 03-031-2

Dear Sir or Madam:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on USDA Docket No. 03-031-2 regarding the environmental impact statement you are in the process of developing for genetically engineered crops and organisms.

New evidence shows that contamination of non-genetically engineered (GE) crops with DNA from genetically engineered organisms is becoming an increasingly serious problem in this country. The National Research Council recently presented the USDA with a report addressing the need for biological confinement of GE organisms. Additionally, the Union of Concerned Scientists, an independent nonprofit alliance of more than 100,000 concerned citizens and scientists, just released a report demonstrating the pervasiveness of contamination in US supplies of non-GE corn, soybean and canola seeds.

It would be irresponsible for the USDA to ignore these recent findings and continue to allow outdoor plantings of GE crops, especially those engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals. If open-air plantings of these biopharm crops are allowed, contamination of the food supply is inevitable.

I am aware that the USDA is considering allowing unapproved varieties of GE organisms to enter the food supply by exempting from regulation the occurrence of low levels of these varieties. It would be negligent for the USDA to allow varieties unapproved for human consumption to enter the food supply.

I am requesting that the following four determinations be included in the Environmental Impact Statement.

--There should be no open-air plantings of biopharm crops, crops engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals.

--Biopharm crops should not be engineered into food crops.

--There should be no exemptions for the occurrence of low levels of unapproved varieties in the food supply.

--There must be regulations in place to ensure that all GE crops are appropriately

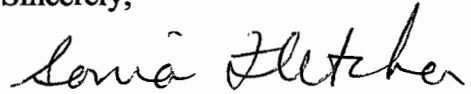
RECEIVED

MAR 15 2004

monitored.

Thank you for taking these concerns into consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sonia Fletcher". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Sonia Fletcher
7 Redwood Dr.
San Rafael, CA 94901

4631 Satinwood Way
Sacramento, CA 95842
March 4, 2004

Docket No. 03-031-2
Regulatory Analysis and Development
PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71
4700 River Road, Unit 118
Riverdale, MD 20737-1238

RE: Docket No. 03-031-2

Dear Sir or Madam:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on USDA Docket No. 03-031-2 regarding the environmental impact statement you are in the process of developing for genetically engineered crops and organisms.

New evidence shows that contamination of non-genetically engineered (GE)crops with DNA from genetically engineered organisms is becoming an increasingly serious problem in this country. The National Research Council recently presented the USDA with a report addressing the need for biological confinement of GE organisms. Additionally, the Union of Concerned Scientists, an independent nonprofit alliance of more than 100,000 concerned citizens and scientists, just released a report demonstrating the pervasiveness of contamination in US supplies of non-GE corn, soybean and canola seeds.

It would be irresponsible for the USDA to ignore these recent findings and continue to allow outdoor plantings of GE crops, especially those engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals. If open-air plantings of these biopharm crops are allowed, contamination of the food supply is inevitable.

I am aware that the USDA is considering allowing unapproved varieties of GE organisms to enter the food supply by exempting from regulation the occurrence of low levels of these varieties. It would be negligent for the USDA to allow varieties unapproved for human consumption to enter the food supply.

RECEIVED

MAR 09 2004

I am requesting that the following four determinations be included in the Environmental Impact Statement.

--There should be no open-air plantings of biopharm crops, crops engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals.

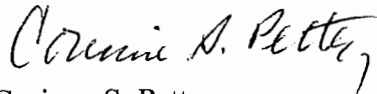
--Biopharm crops should not be engineered into food crops.

--There should be no exemptions for the occurrence of low levels of unapproved varieties in the food supply.

--There must be regulations in place to ensure that all GE crops are appropriately monitored.

Thank you for taking these concerns into consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Corinne S. Pettey". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Corinne S. Pettey

03-031-2

Lisamarie McGrath
358 Lombardy Road
Drexel Hill, PA 19026

Docket No. 03-031-2
Regulatory Analysis and Development
PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71
4700 River Road, Unit 118
Riverdale, MD 20737-1238

RE: Docket No. 03-031-2

February 26, 2004

Dear Sir or Madam:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on USDA Docket No. 03-031-2 regarding the environmental impact statement you are in the process of developing for genetically engineered crops and organisms.

New evidence shows that contamination of non-genetically engineered (GE) crops with DNA from genetically engineered organisms is becoming an increasingly serious problem in this country. The National Research Council recently presented the USDA with a report addressing the need for biological confinement of genetically engineered organisms. Additionally, the Union of Concerned Scientists, an independent nonprofit alliance of more than 100,000 concerned citizens and scientists, just released a report demonstrating the pervasiveness of contamination in US supplies of non-GE corn, soybean and canola seeds.

It would be irresponsible for the USDA to ignore these recent findings and continue to allow outdoor plantings of genetically engineered crops, especially those engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals. If open-air plantings of these "biopharm" crops are allowed, contamination of the food supply is inevitable.

I am aware that the USDA is considering allowing unapproved varieties of genetically engineered organisms to enter the food supply by exempting from regulation the occurrence of low levels of these varieties. It would be negligent for the USDA to allow varieties unapproved for human consumption to enter the food supply.

I am requesting that the following four determinations be included in the Environmental Impact Statement.

- 1) There should be no open-air plantings of "biopharm crops", crops engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals.
- 2) "Biopharm crops" should not be engineered into food crops.

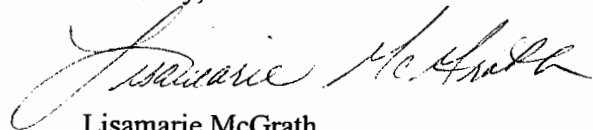
RECEIVED

MAR 05 2004

- 3) There should be no exemptions for the occurrence of low levels of unapproved varieties in the food supply.
- 4) There must be regulations in place to ensure that all GE crops are appropriately monitored.

Thank you for taking these concerns into consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lisamarie McGrath".

Lisamarie McGrath

03-031-2

3077 Arlington Drive
Aptos, CA 95003
March 3, 2003

Docket No. 03-031-2
Regulatory Analysis and Development
PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71
4700 River Road, Unit 118
Riverdale, MD 20737-1238

RE: Docket No. 03-031-2

Dear Sir or Madam:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on USDA Docket No. 03-031-2 regarding the environmental impact statement you are in the process of developing for genetically engineered crops and organisms.

New evidence shows that contamination of non-genetically engineered (GE) crops with DNA from genetically engineered organisms is becoming an increasingly serious problem in this country. The National Research Council recently presented the USDA with a report addressing the need for biological confinement of genetically engineered organisms. Additionally, the Union of Concerned Scientists, an independent nonprofit alliance of more than 100,000 concerned citizens and scientists, just released a report demonstrating the pervasiveness of contamination in US supplies of non-GE corn, soybean and canola seeds.

It would be irresponsible for the USDA to ignore these recent findings and continue to allow outdoor plantings of genetically engineered crops, especially those engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals. If open-air plantings of these "Bbiopharm"® crops are allowed, contamination of the food supply is inevitable.

I am aware that the USDA is considering allowing unapproved varieties of genetically engineered organisms to enter the food supply by exempting from regulation the occurrence of low levels of these varieties. It would be negligent for the USDA to allow varieties unapproved for human consumption to enter the food supply.

I am requesting that the following four determinations be included in the Environmental Impact Statement.

MAR - 4 2004

Page 2

- 1) There should be no open-air plantings of °Biopharm crops°®, crops engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals.
- 2) °Biopharm crops°® should not be engineered into food crops.
- 3) There should be no exemptions for the occurrence of low levels of unapproved varieties in the food supply.
- 4) There must be regulations in place to ensure that all GE crops are appropriately monitored.

Thank you for taking these concerns into consideration.

Sincerely,



Armando Bonifacio

PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71
4700 River Road, Unit 118
Riverdale, MD 20737-1238

RE: Docket No. 03-031-2

Dear Sir or Madam:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on USDA Docket No. 03-031-2 regarding the environmental impact statement you are in the process of developing for genetically engineered crops and organisms.

New evidence shows that contamination of non-genetically engineered (GE) crops with DNA from genetically engineered organisms is becoming an increasingly serious problem in this country. The National Research Council recently presented the USDA with a report addressing the need for biological confinement of genetically engineered organisms. Additionally, the Union of Concerned Scientists, an independent nonprofit alliance of more than 100,000 concerned citizens and scientists, just released a report demonstrating the pervasiveness of contamination in US supplies of non-GE corn, soybean and canola seeds.

It would be highly irresponsible for the USDA to ignore these recent findings and continue to allow outdoor plantings of genetically engineered crops, especially those engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals. If open-air plantings of these "biopharm" crops are allowed, contamination of the food supply is inevitable.

I am aware that the USDA is considering allowing unapproved varieties of genetically engineered organisms to enter the food supply by exempting from regulation the occurrence of low levels of these varieties. It would be negligent for the USDA to allow varieties unapproved for human consumption to enter the food supply.

I am requesting that the following determinations be included in the Environmental Impact Statement:

a.. New regulations must include a comprehensive assessment of the economic impacts GE crops have had on family farmers and rural communities, and a socioeconomic assessment for all new GE crop and food varieties.

b.. There should be no open-air plantings of any GE crops, including "biopharm crops," at University research facilities that grow foundation and public seed stock varieties. If testing is allowed it must be conducted in closed, fully contained experimental facilities with a strict zero-tolerance for contamination attached. Financial responsibility bonds should be made mandatory to cover the cost of liability due to contamination.

MAR 23 2004

c.. Plant and animal species used for food or feed should not be used to produce pharmaceuticals or industrial chemicals;

d.. There should be no exemptions for the occurrence of low levels of DNA from unapproved GE varieties in the food supply;

e.. No additional organisms should be allowed to be genetically engineered into crops unless there is proof that the genetically engineered DNA will not migrate into other living organisms and the environment.

Thank you for taking these concerns into consideration.

Sincerely,

John L. Walker

538 Mt. Pleasant Road

Glossburg

PA 17815

email: jwcoops@epix.net

February 27, 2004

Dear USDA,

These comments are about Docket No. 03-031-2 regarding the Environmental Impact Statement for genetically engineered crops and organisms.

The USDA has not done enough to safeguard the environment from the potential damage that could be caused by genetically engineered crops. Moreover, the USDA is engaged in policies that are benefiting the biotech industry but hurting the organic industry.

Evidence shows that organic corn is becoming thought was impossible. And biologists have been contaminated by the cross-pollination from genetically engineered corn. Further, by allowing the growth of so many acres of crops that contain the Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*) toxin, insects are beginning to build up resistance to the Bt toxin due to overexposure. As a result, the effectiveness of Bt, when used as a spray in organic agriculture, is undermined.

In addition, recent research shows that a lot of "horizontal gene transfer" is taking place in ways that many genetic researchers earlier thought was impossible. And biologists have been shocked to discover plant species with differing numbers of chromosomes are hybridizing. Gene transfer has been shown to occur in open fields of canola, resulting in the creation of "superweeds" that have become herbicide-resistant.

Far more is still unknown about the science of genetic engineering than is known. For example, just a few years ago scientists decided to map the human genome and determine the genes that make up a human. They expected to find more than 100,000 genes. But scientists were shocked to discover that humans are made out of only about 30,000 genes. Scientists determined that a lot of "alternative splicing" is taking place.

With the recent discoveries of alternative splicing and horizontal gene transfer in human and plant genetics, it would be irresponsible for the USDA to allow ANY crops that contain pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals to be grown outdoors. Even if the drugs and chemicals are genetically engineered into non-food crops, it is still impossible to assure that the genes will not eventually get into the food supply.

I am requesting three specific determinations be included in the Environmental Impact Statement:

- 1) Since corn pollen can travel for miles, genetically engineered corn should no longer be allowed to be grown outdoors. Genetically engineered corn is contaminating organic corn, with the potential of causing long-term damage to the organic corn industry.
- 2) Since it is inevitable that insects will become resistant to the spray form of Bt if BT is overused in genetically engineered crops, no more genetically engineered Bt crops of any variety should be allowed to be grown outdoors.

RECEIVED

MAR 25 2004

3) Since horizontal gene transfer and alternative splicing have shown that genes like to move around much more than was previously expected, no crops containing pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals should be allowed to be grown outdoors. Crops genetically engineered to contain pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals should be restricted to greenhouses or other controlled indoor environments. In addition, crops such as genetically engineered wheat or genetically engineered rice should not be allowed to grow outdoors.

While I am pleased that the USDA is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement, I am disappointed that it was not done many years ago. The fact that the Environmental Impact Statement is being prepared now is an indication of the lack of previous due diligence by the USDA in regulating these potentially dangerous plants.

The organic agriculture industry must be protected from contamination and damage from genetically engineered crops. By placing a ban on the outdoor growing of all biotech corn, soy, wheat and rice, and all crops genetically engineered to contain the Bt toxin, the USDA will show it is serious about properly regulating these controversial crops.

Any ruling by the USDA that allows crops genetically engineered to contain pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals to be grown outdoors would be reckless and irresponsible.

Further, more research must be done in all cases before allowing new genetically engineered plants and animals to be rushed to markets. The burden of proof should be on the biotech companies to prove each and every genetically engineered product is safe and labeled before being introduced into the environment and the marketplace.

Sincerely,

Evelyn Lipscomb
1011 Peninsula Court
Macon, Ga 31205



THE SECOND GENERATION

March 17, 2004

Docket No. 03-031-2
Regulatory Analysis and Development
PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71
4700 River Road, Unit 118
Riverdale, MD 20737-1238

Re: Docket No. 03-031-2

Dear Sir or Madam:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on USDA Docket No. 03-031-2 regarding the environmental impact statement you are in the process of developing for genetically engineered crops and organisms.

New evidence shows that contamination of non-genetically engineered (GE) crops with DNA from genetically engineered organisms is becoming an increasingly serious problem in this country. The National Research Council recently presented the USDA with a report addressing the need for biological confinement of genetically engineered organisms. Additionally, the Union of Concerned Scientists, an independent nonprofit alliance of more than 100,000 concerned citizens and scientists, just released a report demonstrating the pervasiveness of contamination in US supplies of non-GE corn, soybean and canola seeds.

It would be irresponsible for the USDA to ignore these recent findings and continue to allow outdoor plantings of genetically engineered crops, especially those engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals. If open-air plantings of these "biopharm" crops are allowed, contamination of the food supply is inevitable.

I am aware that the USDA is considering allowing unapproved varieties of genetically engineered organisms to enter the food supply by exempting from regulation the occurrence of low levels of these varieties. It would be negligent for the USDA to allow varieties unapproved for human consumption to enter the food supply.

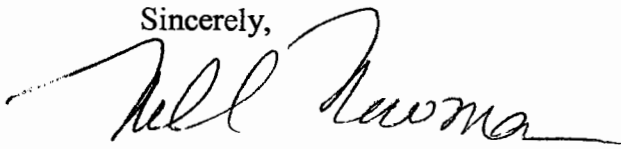
I am requesting that the following four determinations be included in the Environmental Impact Statement.

MAR 23 2004

- 1.) There should be no open-air plantings of "biopharm crops", crops engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals.
- 2.) "Biopharm crops" should not be engineered into food crops.
- 3.) There should be no exemptions for the occurrence of low levels of unapproved varieties in the food supply.
- 4.) There must be regulations in place to ensure that all GE crops are appropriately monitored.

Thank you for taking these concerns into consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Nell Newman".

Nell Newman

President of Newman's Own Organics

God is too big to fit into just one religion.

Howard Ennes

• 160 Woodland Drive • Fort Bragg, California • 95437-4521 •
• (707) 964-7860 • e-mail: nsdusoir@mcn.org •

March 3, 2003

Regulatory Analysis and Development
PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71
4700 River Road, Unit 118
Riverdale, MD 20737-1238

RE: Docket No. 03-031-2

Friends:

These are comments concern the environmental impact statement you are in the process of developing for **genetically engineered crops and organisms**.

New evidence shows that contamination of non-genetically engineered (GE) crops with DNA from genetically engineered organisms is becoming an increasingly serious problem in this country. In my 86 years I have not witnessed a threat to humankind -- other than the atomic bomb -- more serious.

The National Research Council recently presented the USDA with a report addressing the need for biological confinement of GE organisms. Additionally, the Union of Concerned Scientists, an independent nonprofit alliance of more than 100,000 concerned citizens and scientists, just released a report demonstrating the pervasiveness of contamination in US supplies of non-GE corn, soybean and canola seeds.

It would be irresponsible for the USDA to ignore these recent findings and continue to allow outdoor plantings of GE crops, especially those engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals. If open-air plantings of these biopharm crops are allowed, contamination of the food supply is inevitable.

RECEIVED

MAR 09 2004

I am aware -- and outraged -- that the USDA is considering allowing unapproved varieties of GE organisms to enter the food supply by exempting from regulation the occurrence of low levels of these varieties. For the USDA to allow varieties unapproved for human consumption to enter the food supply borders on the criminal.

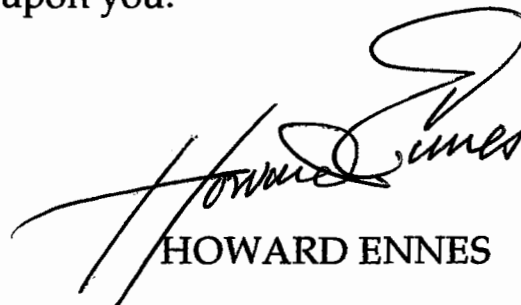
It is essential that the following **four determinations** be included in the Environmental Impact Statement:

- 1] There should be no open-air plantings of biopharm crops, crops engineered to produce pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals.
- 2] Biopharm crops should not be engineered into food crops.
- 3] There should be no exemptions for the occurrence of low levels of unapproved varieties in the food supply.
- 4] There must be regulations in place to ensure that all GE crops are appropriately monitored.

Certainly you are aware that there has not been sufficient solid research to support such indiscriminate release of organisms that can not be retrieved.

I have confidence that your good sense of the public interest and your ethical values will override the political pressures being brought upon you.

Sincerely,



HOWARD ENNES



Docket No. 03-031-2
Regulatory Analysis and Development
PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71
4700 River Road, Unit 118
Riverdale, MD 20737-1238

RE: Docket No. 03-031-2

Dear USDA,

These comments are about Docket No. 03-031-2 regarding the Environmental Impact Statement for genetically engineered crops and organisms.

The USDA has not done enough to safeguard the environment from the potential damage that could be caused by genetically engineered crops. Moreover, the USDA is engaged in policies that are benefiting the biotech industry but hurting the organic industry.

Evidence shows that organic corn is becoming contaminated by the cross-pollination from genetically engineered corn. Further, by allowing the growth of so many acres of crops that contain the Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*) toxin, insects are beginning to build up resistance to the Bt toxin due to overexposure. As a result, the effectiveness of Bt, when used as a spray in organic agriculture, is undermined.

In addition, recent research shows that a lot of "horizontal gene transfer" is taking place in ways that many genetic researchers earlier thought was impossible. And biologists have been shocked to discover plant species with differing numbers of chromosomes are hybridizing. Gene transfer has been shown to occur in open fields of canola, resulting in the creation of "superweeds" that have become herbicide-resistant.

Far more is still unknown about the science of genetic engineering than is known. For example, just a few years ago scientists decided to map the human genome and determine the genes that make up a human. They expected to find more than 100,000 genes. But scientists were shocked to discover that humans are made out of only about 30,000 genes. Scientists determined that a lot of "alternative splicing" is taking place.

With the recent discoveries of alternative splicing and horizontal gene transfer in human and plant genetics, it would be irresponsible for the USDA to allow ANY crops that contain pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals to be grown outdoors. Even if the drugs and chemicals are genetically engineered into non-food crops, it is still impossible to assure that the genes will not eventually get into the food supply.

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MAR 18 2004

P. O. Box 2924
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH
84110-2924
801-359-2658



I am requesting three specific determinations be included in the Environmental Impact Statement:

- 1) Since corn pollen can travel for miles, genetically engineered corn should no longer be allowed to be grown outdoors. Genetically engineered corn is contaminating organic corn, with the potential of causing long-term damage to the organic corn industry.
- 2) Since it is inevitable that insects will become resistant to the spray form of Bt if BT is overused in genetically engineered crops, no more genetically engineered Bt crops of any variety should be allowed to be grown outdoors.
- 3) Since horizontal gene transfer and alternative splicing have shown that genes like to move around much more than was previously expected, no crops containing pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals should be allowed to be grown outdoors. Crops genetically engineered to contain pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals should be restricted to greenhouses or other controlled indoor environments. In addition, crops such as genetically engineered wheat or genetically engineered rice should not be allowed to grow outdoors.

While I am pleased that the USDA is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement, I am disappointed that it was not done many years ago. The fact that the Environmental Impact Statement is being prepared now is an indication of the lack of previous due diligence by the USDA in regulating these potentially dangerous plants.

The organic agriculture industry must be protected from contamination and damage from genetically engineered crops. By placing a ban on the outdoor growing of all biotech corn, soy, wheat and rice, and all crops genetically engineered to contain the Bt toxin, the USDA will show it is serious about properly regulating these controversial crops.

Any ruling by the USDA that allows crops genetically engineered to contain pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals to be grown outdoors would be reckless and irresponsible.

Further, more research must be done in all cases before allowing new genetically engineered plants and animals to be rushed to markets. The burden of proof should be on the biotech companies to prove each and every genetically engineered product is safe and labeled before being introduced into the environment and the marketplace.

Sincerely,

Brian Emerson
Outreach Coordinator
Wasatch Community Gardens
P.O. Box 2924
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(801) 359-2658
(801) 322-4810

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LifeSource
natural foods

2649 Commercial Street SE Salem OR 97302

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3/11/2004

Docket No. 03-031-2
Regulatory Analysis and Development,
PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71
4700 River Road, Unit 118
Riverdale, MD 20737-1238.

To Whom It May Concern:

These comments are about Docket No. 03-031-2 regarding the Environmental Impact Statement for genetically engineered crops and organisms.

The USDA has not done enough to safeguard the environment from the potential damage that could be caused by genetically engineered crops. Moreover, the USDA is engaged in policies that are benefiting the biotech industry but hurting the organic industry.

Evidence shows that organic corn is becoming contaminated by the cross-pollination from genetically engineered corn. Further, by allowing the growth of so many acres of crops that contain the Bt (*bacillus thuringiensis*) toxin, insects are beginning to build up resistance to the Bt toxin due to overexposure. As a result, the effectiveness of Bt, when used as a spray in organic agriculture, is undermined.

In addition, recent research shows that a lot of "horizontal gene transfer" is taking place in ways that many genetic researchers earlier thought was impossible. And biologists have been shocked to discover plant species with differing numbers of chromosomes are hybridizing. Gene transfer has been shown to occur in open fields of canola, resulting in the creation of "superweeds" that have become herbicide-resistant.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Alex Beamer".

Alex Beamer
Owner LifeSource Natural Foods
2649 Commercial St SE
Salem, Or. 97302
Phone 503-361-7973
e-mail Alexlifesource@comcast.net